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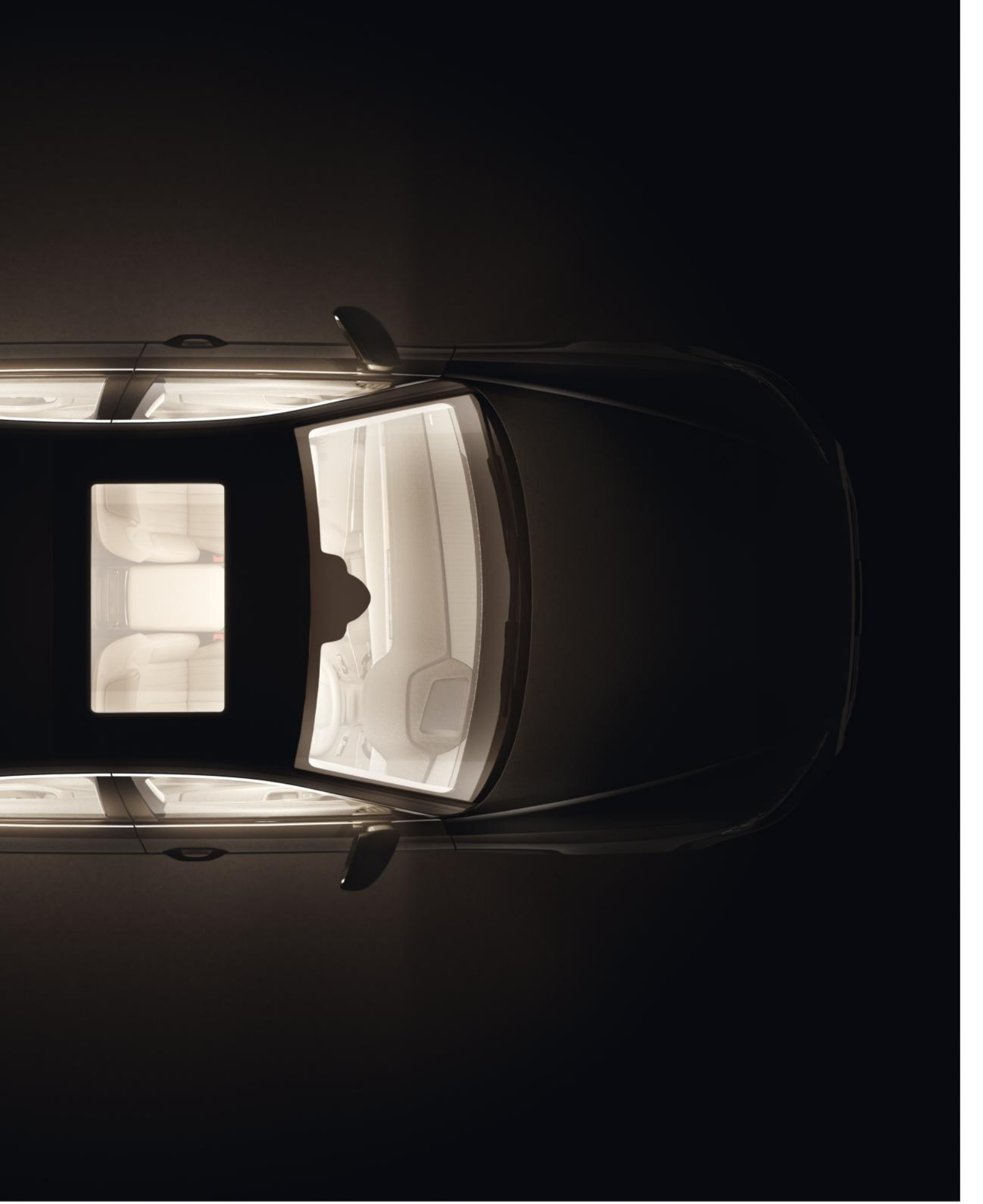

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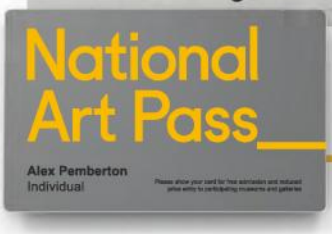

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TWO COVERS! DOUBLE ISSUE

At 7pm on a weekend in September, more than a thousand people were queuing around the corner of a side street on Brighton's seafront. Some had been waiting for more than two-and-a-half hours to see the man who was speaking that night, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. This was a fringe event during Labour's annual conference and yet, as the *New Statesman* pointed out at the time, it felt more like a gig. Inside the auditorium, as stage lights bathed the expectant crowd – some of whom were acting as though they were overexcited teenagers about to see Harry Styles perform for the first time – a compere took to the mic: "Brothers and sisters, comrades and friends, welcome to The World Transformed!" he screamed, before introducing, "The next prime minister of this country, the absolute boy, *Jeremy Corbyn!*"

Then, as if by serendipity, dry ice filled the room and the thunderous introduction of The White Stripes' "Seven Nation Army" blasted out of the PA as the assembled throng sang as one, "Ooohhh, Jeremy Corbyn… Ooohhh, Jeremy Corbyn…" chanting their saviour's name as though he were a deity or a tribal warlord. According to one source, one of the organisers claimed they had hired a series of lasers, too, but decided to hold off as they were deemed unnecessary.

Why? Because Corbyn was already being treated like a rock star and any more stage dynamics would have been overkill. As the *New Statesman* said a week later, it is impossible to imagine any other politician getting such a reception on the conference fringe. It is actually difficult to imagine any British politician getting such a reception anywhere in the country. Corbyn generates the kind of public adoration that Bernie Sanders received when he was running for the Democratic presidential nomination in the US two years ago, although the 68-year-old MP for Islington North has a groundswell of support that assumes he can go all the way. After all, they say, he hasn't got an unrelenting Hillary Clinton in his way, only a beleaguered Theresa May.

Jeremy Corbyn is nothing less than a phenomenon. Actually, he is plenty of other things, many of which can be described as less than phenomenal, but in terms of having achieved genuine political cut-through with the public – what analysts increasingly refer to as traction – he is a phenomenon. Partly this is because he has somehow offered a potential step-change in an uncertain post-Brexit world (Corbyn is a Eurosceptic who has often spoken of the single market as an obstacle to true socialism), partly because the Conservatives are in such obvious disarray and partly – mostly, in fact – because he has inadvertently been cast as the British Bernie Sanders, an old-school maverick whose binary (and some would say adolescent) view of political reform chimes with those

This month, GQ publishes two covers: Jeremy Corbyn wears suit, £199. Shirt, £45. Tie, £12.50. All by **Marks & Spencer**. marksandspencer.com. Photographed by **Marco Grob**

Matt Smith wears coat by **Dolce & Gabbana**, £4,140.dolcegabbana.com. Shirt by **Burberry**, £495 burberry.com. Photographed by **James White**

He sells himself as a saviour, albeit one sheathed in a crumpled raincoat

who feel the political system has become too sophisticated and, under the current regime, too punitive. Polls continue to suggest that voters between the ages of 18 and 34 have been drawn to Corbyn because of his overt commitment to the NHS and his position on education funding and apprenticeships, improvements to public services and a more democratic (or at least reliable) benefits system. They also like his self-deprecating humour, his deliberately slovenly dress sense and even his stage-managed courting of grime artists.

He sells himself – or, as we learn from Senior Commissioning Editor Stuart McGurk's fascinating cover story interview with Corbyn, appears to allow himself to be sold – as a saviour, albeit one sheathed in a crumpled raincoat rather than a superhero's bodysuit. There is certainly something of the rock star about him, however, something you can't fail to notice when he's in public. Twice now I've seen him at high-profile society events and twice I've seen a man besieged by people wanting selfies, wanting to touch him, wanting just to see him at close quarters. He came to our Men Of The Year Awards at Tate Modern a few months ago and the clamour both outside the venue (with the public) as well as inside (with celebrities and media) was extraordinary; he has an attraction that is undeniable, and while it might also be surprising, you can't deny it isn't real.

But what is real about Jeremy Corbyn? McGurk, this year's PPA Writer Of The Year, has spent several months trying to find out. His portrait of the charter member of Corbynism is fascinating not just for its examination of the man at close quarters, but also because of his exposure to the internal circus around Corbyn and McGurk paints a picture of a man at the eye of a hurricane that is not his making, a storm he himself is unable to coherently explain. Corbyn's Labour coronation is often portrayed as a political equivalent of an *X Factor* victory, yet it was far more shocking than that, as so few could see it coming. »

» Seriously, who would have bet on a hard-left ideologue assuming the Labour leadership in this day and age?

"There is simply no historical model anywhere in the world for what we want to do that has been successful," a senior Labour insider said a few weeks ago. "A left government being elected in a post-industrial society and then successfully managing to transition into a major new settlement, whether a new form of capitalism or socialism. This is not easy to achieve."

As for Corbyn's ideology, it is there for all to see, although he is surrounded by a beehive of suspicion. For instance, he appears to have a rather callow understanding of economics, especially where the illusion of the money tree of quantitative easing is concerned. His proposals for the renationalisation of utilities are completely unrealistic given the investment needed, as are his plans for free education. I am no fan of Philip Hammond, but when he says that "Jeremy Corbyn offers a chaotic and high-risk gamble that would lead to higher taxes, more borrowing and more debt," he's simply talking common sense.

"Common sense" is one of Corbyn's catchphrases, one that has resonated with his supporters, who see him as a political visionary, and someone who has never played by the rules. Yet it's easy to be a rebel if you don't engage.

Another worrying trait of the Corbyn tenancy is the stain of anti-Semitism, and his reluctance to address the problem in his party directly. If Corbyn got into power, would he actually recognise the state of Israel? Given his refusal to attend the Labour Friends Of Israel reception at this year's conference (while failing to mention anti-Semitism by name), does this hint that he might impose some sort of sanctions instead? We should not forget that in 2009 he suggested that Hamas, the militant Palestinian group, should be removed from Britain's official list of banned terror groups.

Martin Amis has called Corbyn the "fluky beneficiary of a drastic elevation", an "incurious" man of "slow-minded rigidity". Branding him both "undereducated" and "humourless", Amis' most salient accusation is his "dismally reflexive mental habit of seeking tinkertoy moral 'equivalence' at every opportunity". His understanding of old-left values are almost remedial, gawkily embodying "one of its noblest themes: the search for something a little bit better than what exists today: more equal, more gentle, more just". Tony Blair simply believes he is an empty vessel, forever repeating third-hand rhetoric (but then he would, wouldn't he?).

Like former Labour leader Michael Foot a generation ago, Corbyn also seems incapable of understanding that in order to amplify his message, he needs to be able to interact with the wider public on their terms, rather than his. It's this unyielding quality that his core supporters appear to respect, almost as though by not acting like a traditional politician he will eventually morph into the most successful politician of all time. History suggests he needs to win over the hearts and minds of those who very much *aren't* his supporters. But then history may no longer be a reliable witness.

Corbyn needs to interact with voters on their terms, not just his

It would be trite to compare Corbyn to Chauncey Gardiner, the simple-minded sage played by Peter Sellers in Hal Ashby's 1979 film, *Being There*; trite, but not altogether unfair. Because while Corbyn is certainly committed, his ability to turn that commitment into a political reality seems as unlikely and as far-fetched as Sellers' simpleton gardener becoming a presidential advisor.

Or indeed a president. Imagine that.

However, there is such momentum behind Corbyn right now that he is seriously being talked about as a potential future prime minister, someone who can galvanise the electorate with the promise of a bright new tomorrow. Which is why – along with our international cover star Matt Smith – he's on the front of the magazine this month, looking for all the world like the accidental statesman.

You'll have your own ideas about whether or not he has what it takes to go all the way (and indeed, whether you want him to), but McGurk's piece will certainly make you bristle a little. **GQ**

Dylan Jones, Editor

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GQ.co.uk this month on

How we chose Jeremy Corbyn

Be a fly on the *GQ* wall with our short film about the process behind the Jeremy Corbyn cover shoot, including inside access to our creative process and the thoughts of *GQ* staff.

Alastair Campbell vs Charlie Brooker

Step into the room with Alastair Campbell and Charlie Brooker and watch their frank discussion about the future of the world, the threat of nuclear war and the new series of *Black Mirror.*

Loyle Carner on getting fired and writing drunk

On *GQ*'s YouTube channel, check out British hip hop hero (and YSL fragrance ambassador) Loyle Carner's chat with *GQ* Acting Style & Grooming Editor Carlotta Constant.

Subscribe to the GQ Strike! podcast

GQ has launched *Strike!* – a new podcast covering all things football, presented by "football crazy" *GQ Style* Fashion Director, Elgar Johnson.

GQ strike!

10 coolest things to do in London this week

Samuel Pepys wrote that once a man is tired of London, he is tired of life. Get energised with the help of our weekly updated guide to spending quality time in the capital.

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Contributors

Stuart McGURK

GQ's Senior Commissioning Editor, PPA Award-winning Writer Of The Year Stuart McGurk, interviewed Jeremy Corbyn exclusively for this issue. Corbyn's Labour has never been closer to power: if there was an election tomorrow, the polls suggest the party would win, and when the pair met, McGurk challenged Corbyn on everything from Brexit to Blair. "He was both amiable and awkward," says McGurk, "unlike any political leader I've ever met."

James BREEDEN

In the Arizona desert, on the border of the US and Mexico, an extremist white militia group patrols the area for "illegal immigrants". Photographer James Breeden accompanied writer Alex Hannaford for this issue's report on the "band of brothers". Of his trip, Breeden says, "I came to perceive these men as a collection of misfits all trying to fill a void. By the end, I almost felt accepted into their weird world."

Alastair CAMPBELL

In time for the return of *Black Mirror* on Netflix, *GQ* Contributing Editor Alastair Campbell sat down with the show's creator, Charlie Brooker. Brooker discusses his process, politics and nuclear paranoia. Campbell explains, "After gorging on *Black Mirror* and then spending time with Brooker, I got a real sense of his extraordinary imagination."

Tom STUBBS

This month in New House Rules, menswear stylist and writer Tom Stubbs comes clean about his recent midlife crisis, triggered by a divorce from his skinny jeans. At 47, Stubbs, who elsewhere this issue discusses the beret and styles Aidan Turner, says, "Skinnies are for chumps. Here's to my middle-aged, massive denim wide-on."

Olivia COLE

If you're looking for something great to read, check out Literary Editor Olivia Cole's column in The Drop. "Next year has the makings of a vintage one for books," she says. "There's new work from Dave Eggers and Zadie Smith, plus memoirs from the Obamas."

Jim KRANTZ

You'd be forgiven for thinking any attempt to photograph a group of Coloradan cowboys on the biggest cattle ranch in North America, wearing Billionaire's AW17 Wild West-inspired collection, would be mission impossible. And yet in this month's fashion feature, award-winning photographer Jim Krantz makes it look effortless. "These men were undaunted in their clothes," he says. GQ

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It's not too late to fix our food crisis

The way we farm, shop and eat doesn't just hurt our health, but also society, our economy and even the planet. It's a recipe for disaster and change is needed from the ground up

STORY BY **Rosie Boycott**

If we think about it, most of us would reckon that our food system functions pretty well – or even very well, depending on where you live and how much money you have in your pocket. I run the London Food Board and every day my city serves up around 33 million meals. Just think about it for a moment: all that food has to be grown, picked, harvested, packed, transported, processed, transported again, displayed in shops, bought, stuffed in the fridge, cooked, cleaned and finally eaten. Given that most of us find it quite a feat of organisation to cook a midweek dinner for eight, what happens in London every day is mind-boggling. How could anyone say that this is not a good system?

But industrial food – most of what's on the shelves – comes with a huge, largely hidden price tag: obesity and diet-related diseases, biodiversity loss, water depletion, pollution, animal suffering, soil erosion, deforestation, and shameful quantities of waste, all of which affect our world, our health and our way of life. Given that, and given that (obviously) we cannot do without it, it beggars belief that we have no ministry or government department dedicated to ensuring that we all get to eat the best and healthiest food throughout our lives.

Our food system reflects the values we hold as a society, where we have prized free trade above the best social good. The result, a food system that supplies the cheapest possible food regardless of how it is produced or of its nutritional quality. There is only one aim: to sell as much as possible, as cheaply as possible. And the price for this policy is extremely high.

Let's start with health and obesity.

More people in the world are obese than underfed

More people in the world are overweight or obese than are classed as having too little food; 2.1 billion are overweight or obese, one in 12 adults has diabetes and more than 42 million children are overweight. In China, *half* of the adult population is now considered to be pre-diabetic or diabetic. And they've run up that extraordinary figure in 25 years.

Closer to home, diet is now the biggest risk factor for death and disease in the UK. Obesity and type 2 diabetes cost the NHS 15p in every £1 spent. Last year there were more than 7,000 amputations due to diabetes. The main reason children under the age of ten go into hospital and have anaesthetics is to have their teeth removed. I could go on.

Our food system contributes one third of global greenhouse gas emissions. If we don't change this, the current climate models indicate that by 2050, this share will have risen to 75 per cent of the total global carbon budget. Palm oil in Indonesia and cereal crops in South America have devastated virgin rainforest. And over 50 per cent of all grains and cereals aren't grown for us to eat – they're grown to feed the animals that in turn feed us, a system of monstrous inefficiency in an over-stressed world. To produce one kilo of beef, for instance, can require seven kilos of grain.

And we are losing our pollinators; US beekeepers have lost 30 per cent of their colonies every year since 2006, with total annual losses sometimes reaching as high as 44 per cent. According to the UN's Food And Agriculture Organization, 90 per cent of the world's food supply comes from about 100 crop species, and 71 of »

Photograph **Gallery Stock**

Clean eating: Industrialised production makes food cheaper – but at what cost to our health?

» those crops (especially fruits and vegetables) rely on bees for pollination. In parts of China, farmers are resorting to pollinating fruit trees by hand with a paintbrush as there are no wild bees left to do the job.

Closer to home, according to Professor Tim Benton, if we have a series of droughts in the next few years, East Anglia, where half of the UK's potato crop is grown, could be a dust bowl – a twin impact of climate change and overworked soil.

Despite that prediction, at all international climate conferences food is still a footnote. And, for me, this sums up much of what is wrong with our food system today. By making food into an industrial commodity, it has been stripped of its importance and value. Instead of something wholesome and nourishing, it's become ready meals, fast food and snacks-on-demand. The social glue that meals used to provide has been swapped for individually wrapped snacks you can eat on your own, in your bedroom, watching TV. How do we change it?

The good news is that the evidence for diet being a driver of some of the major challenges facing humanity has grown, not diminished. And the scale of the task is quietly dawning on all who monitor and explore the nature of food's impact on society, ecosystems and economy. But what seems to be required to right the wrongs is nothing short of a transformation of the food system – a revolution. And it's a revolution that needs to happen at every level. We need laws and regulations to change, but we must also nurture every small community café selling home-cooked meals from locally grown produce and acknowledge they are changing the food system one meal at a time.

Brexit is a game changer. Unless we win the argument, the hard-fought European laws around labelling, animal welfare and pesticide use (to name a few) risk being lost as trade restrictions are abolished. But many of us in the world of food politics also wonder if this might be the time for a Food Act. If so, what might it look like?

Once we're out of the EU, the Common Agricultural Policy, as we know it, is over. So let's rethink the way we provide subsidies to farmers.

In a few years, East Anglia could be a dust bowl

Instead of rewards based on acreage, can we use farm payments to encourage farmers and land managers to protect our health as well as our biodiversity and natural assets, such as climate, soil health, pollinators, water and flood protection?

We could also start to bring some honesty and transparency into the supply chain. We could beef up the role of the groceries code adjudicator, Christine Tacon, so she could ensure farmers are decently treated and rewarded. That would mean bringing an end to some of the more predatory supermarket practices – such as insisting farmers pay *them* for premium space on shelves.

We all know our fish stocks are in trouble. All the current moves to fish sustainably are voluntary, but we could make this law. We could have a Sustainable Fisheries Act that would ensure UK fishing was at scientifically agreed levels. We could – if we were really daring and wanted to show leadership – monitor the fish coming into the country, asking if it had been fished or farmed in a sustainable way.

Children's health is a huge issue, and not just obesity. If a child is badly fed during the school holidays because their parents are too poor to provide an adequately nutritious meal, they fall behind their classmates. Research in the US estimates that by the age of ten, a child who is badly nourished can lose up to 18 months of learning. And you don't get this back.

Obviously, we have to reduce sugar across the board, we have to stop advertising junk food to kids and we have to guarantee the introduction of the promised soft drinks industry levy. But we need to do more than that. A quarter of children in the UK currently do not eat any vegetables; providing a free school meal to all children would be one giant step.

What about hospitals? When I went to Great Ormond Street for a meeting about its food, I walked through a lobby wall-to-wall with fizzy-drink vending machines, junk-food outlets and chocolate shops. There was nothing that wasn't unhealthy. They explained that each vending machine paid the hospital £8,000 a year for the privilege of being in the lobby. Yet there are wards full of kids with type 2 diabetes. We could, by law, set the same standard for hospital food as we set for school food. In Scotland, junk-food retailers are banned in hospitals. We could do that here.

In China, fruit farmers pollinate trees by hand as there are no bees

What can we do about hunger? It outrages me that food banks have become so embedded in our culture. We need a commitment that crosses all parties to examine this, to look at the human and economic cost and to figure out how we end it. A strong government commitment would be a good place to start, plus a range of measures to ensure kids don't go hungry in the holidays, that they have breakfast provided at school and that Healthy Start vouchers are sufficiently publicised so everyone who needs them takes them up.

We also need to consider the end of life – malnutrition is now the main reason elderly people go into hospital in London. Only 13 boroughs still have a meals-on-wheels service and the pattern is repeated across the country. That fact makes me shudder. We save a maximum of £15 a day by not delivering a healthy meal (and a friendly face) but risk having to spend the £400 a day cost of a hospital bed.

Any new environment act should include food in its targets. Currently, all carbon emissions from imported food are the property of the producer, not the consumer. Is it fair that the carbon bill for the avocado I eat in London is "billed" to the grower country? No. We also have to reduce the amount of meat we eat and the food we process. Both come with the highest "carbon bills". But the good news is that a healthy diet is also the diet with the lowest carbon budget.

Can we do it? Can we change this massive, unwieldy system so food becomes the wholesome, nourishing stuff nature meant it to be? It won't be easy, but the prize is great. Food is the world's great connector – it connects us to land, to growing, to the mysteries of life. Above all, it connects us to one another. It's a very worthwhile challenge. GQ

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WORLD'S BEST TASTING VODKA

Best-kept Secret: Swedish model and fashion designer Elsa Hosk at this year's Cannes Film Festival

Photograph Vincent Desailly

THE RISING STAR

Having a career is so 2016. These days, it's about having *careers*. A main job, sure, but also a side hustle or two – a Friday night comedy gig or a Saturday evening supper club. Or, in the case of Elsa Hosk, the 29-year-old model who covered last year's Victoria's Secret swimsuit calendar, a fashion line. She has just designed her first capsule collection and has grander plans besides: "I'm working on my own brand right now."

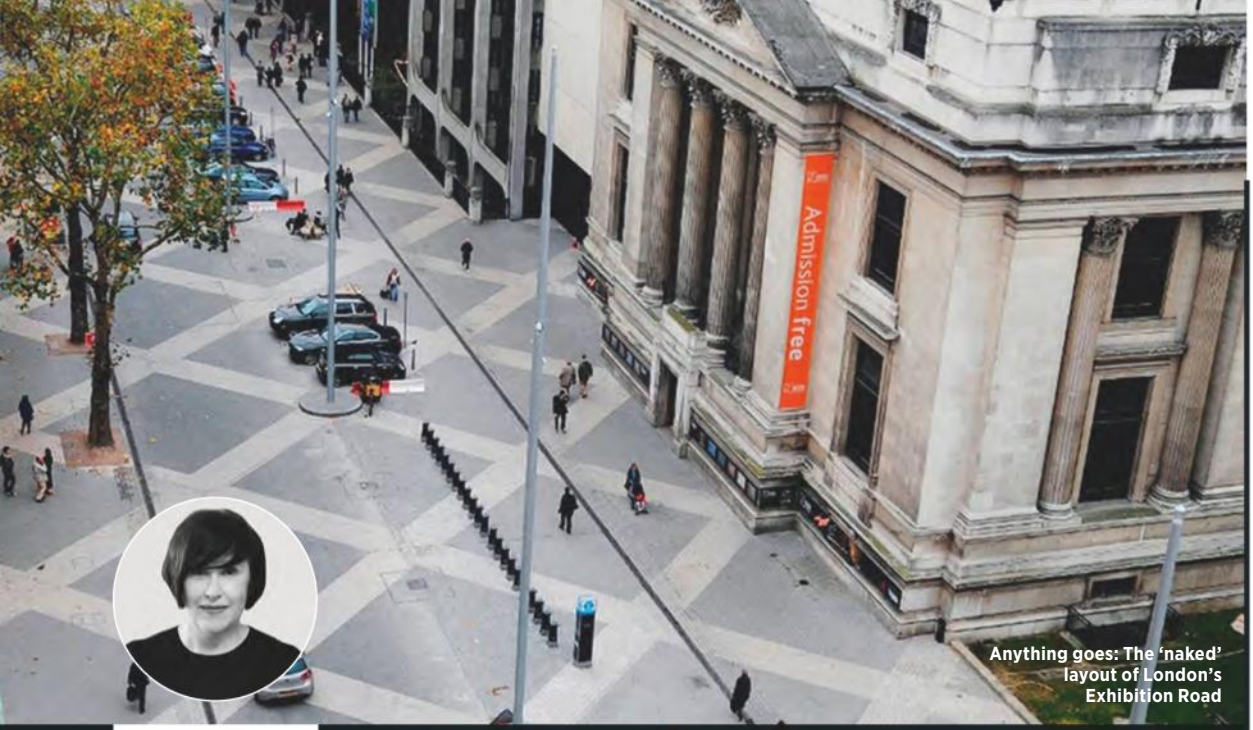
You could argue that she already has quite the brand. Hosk counts more than 3.8 million followers of her Instagram feed (*@hoskelsa*) and also has a profile in the sports world, having played professional basketball for two years in her native Sweden. "I still play when I can," she says. "Usually on holidays or weekends away – whenever I see a basketball!" There are things she misses about it. "Team spirit, the adrenaline... winning."

Hang on a minute – a multihyphenate VS model who's going places? She might not be winning on the basketball court, but she's certainly winning at life. **Eleanor Halls**

EDITED BY **CHARLIE BURTON**

THIS MONTH: KIDNAP SURVIVAL *p.42* DRINKING WITH SALVADOR DALI *p.45* AIDAN TURNER *p.46* TOM WALKER *p.54*

GQ DETAILS



Anything goes: The 'naked' layout of London's Exhibition Road

THE DESIGN ARCHETYPE

Progress knows no barrier

How an unlikely theory in urban planning improves safety by creating danger

Ask a New Yorker how long it will take to drive from A to B in Manhattan and they'll doubtless say, "It depends on the traffic." Hence a bold idea in urban design that's coming to the Flatiron Plazas in Midtown from late 2018 onwards, when the stretches of Broadway and 5th Avenue between West 21st and West 25th Streets will be transformed into "naked streets". Vehicles and pedestrians will be free to use the roads unsegregated, rather than being relegated to specific areas by lines and kerbs or subjected to instructions from traffic lights and road signs.

The Flatiron Plazas are not the only areas of New York to have opted for naked streets. A chunk of Lower Manhattan has already done so, as has 165th Street in Jamaica, Queens. Like transport authorities in some other parts of the world, the New York City Department Of Transportation has been converted to the idea that the rules and regulations, which are intended to make roads safer, may have become counterproductive. Perhaps we're better off without them.

The original naked street was designed in 2001 by a Dutch traffic engineer, Hans Monderman, for the town of Drachten in the Netherlands. Monderman studied civil engineering but became so intrigued by the psychology of motoring that he trained as an advanced driving instructor and accident investigator. His research convinced him that traffic signs were becoming so familiar to drivers and pedestrians that they were ignoring them. Conversely, people behaved more cautiously on roads without visible controls, where they were free to choose their own routes and had to take responsibility for not endangering anyone else.

Monderman adopted a radical approach in Drachten by removing all of the road controls from one of its most congested and dangerous intersections. Turning it into a free-for-all had such a dramatic effect in reducing traffic, speeding and accidents that he was invited to design naked streets for more than 100 other sites in the Netherlands. If his approach to road safety is able to free up Midtown Manhattan, that will be quite the vindication. **Alice Rawsthorn**

The Insta classics

Happy-snap your Instagram feed by following the 'grammers behind three posts we hit 'like' on this month

@X__ANTISOCIAL_BUTTERFLY__X

@DRGRAYFANG

@BOYWITHNOJOB

GQ BAND O-MATIC

Do something different this month, tune in to these new sounds...

Into: Slaves?
Try: Baxter Dury
His father, Ian, left big boots to fill, but this album of dark riffs and menacing monologues is a worthy addition to the Dury legacy.
Prince Of Tears is out now.

Into: My Morning Jacket?
Try: Karl Blau
Rather than relying on his rich voice alone, Karl Blau emerges from his rural retreat north of Seattle with an album that blends soul, funk and jazz.
Out Her Space is out now.

Into: Paul Weller?
Try: Hightown Pirates
Simon Mason has had a Zelig-like rock'n'roll life: Oasis' Britpop drug fixer, he toured with Pete Doherty and is now releasing a terrific debut record.
Dry And High is out now.

Into: The Strokes?
Try: Juan De Fuca
This five-piece from Decatur, Georgia, are led by singer Jack Cherry, whose joyful cacophony is a much-needed shot in the arm for American indie.
Solve/Resolve is out now.
Kevin Perry

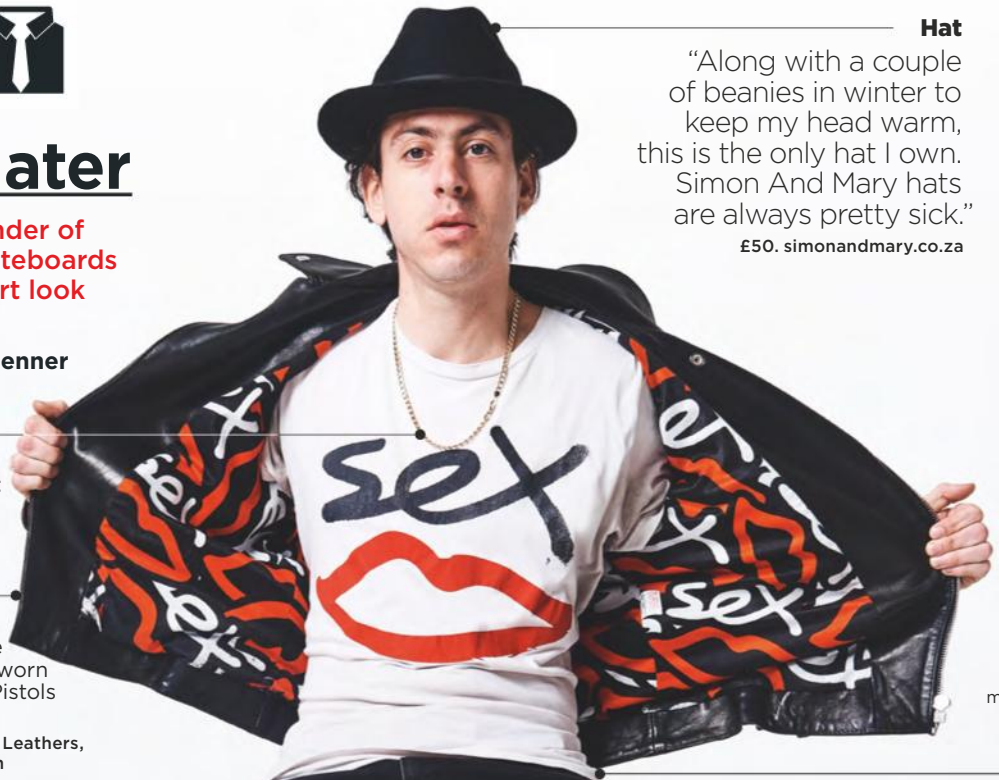
Photograph PA

MY STYLE PAGE

Louis Slater

The artist and founder of cult brand Sex Skateboards rocks a street-smart look with a punk edge

PORTRAIT BY **Florian Renner**



Hat
"Along with a couple of beanies in winter to keep my head warm, this is the only hat I own. Simon And Mary hats are always pretty sick."
£50. simonandmary.co.za

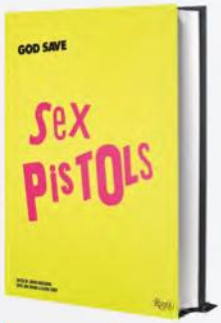
Necklace
"The chain is solid gold and was a present from my parents for my 18th birthday."

Jacket
"I love vintage punk fashion. Old motorcycle jackets like these were worn by everyone from Sex Pistols to The Ramones."
By Sex Skateboards X Lewis Leathers, £1,250. sexskateboards.com

Wish list

Spray paint
"I'm always painting. I spray paint on canvas and then mix it with oils."
By Montana Colors, £4.50. montanacolors.com

T-shirt
"One day I spray-painted 'sex' and a pair of lips on a T-shirt and it just turned into a brand."
By Sex Skateboards, £40. sexskateboards.com



Wish list

Book
"Ever since I went to the US in 1998 and met famed skater Ali Boulala, a Sex Pistols devotee, I've been a huge fan of the band."
God Save Sex Pistols by Johan Kugelberg, £65. At Rizzoli. rizzoliusa.com

Wish list

Lens
"Screw this cool little gadget onto an iPhone case and you can film with a wide-angled lens. I don't film as much as I'd like, but this would be handier than carrying a video camera."
By Deathlens, £60. deathdigital.com

Shoes
"Doc Martens look so much better worn in. This style of Chelsea boot is particularly good."
£135. drmartens.com

Trousers
"Volume 4's 'Hobo Denim' is tough with great stretch, which makes these jeans good for skating. They don't come with the paint splatters, though – that's my personal touch."
£50. volume4.myshopify.com

Wish list

Trainers
"I like wearing all black and this is a pretty cool shoe, so it would work really well with my look."
By Casbia, £320. casbia.com

Story by **Ben Kinkaid** Styling **Jake Pummintr** Grooming **Charley McEwen**

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Go Deeper

THE POWER LUNCH

Every year, there's a small handful of new restaurants that it's actively embarrassing not to have visited. The food equivalent of not having seen *Blade Runner 2049* or the latest *Star Wars*. And this year, one of those restaurants is Jean-Georges at The Connaught. Why the hype? Well, Jean-Georges Vongerichten is the superchef behind the three Michelin-starred Jean-Georges New York – one of the Big Apple's great standouts – and the last time he was in London was 15 years ago with Vong at The Berkeley (for the record: yes, we're ignoring his ill-fated Spice Market in Leicester Square). The menu is sexy and it knows it – the much-talked-about truffle pizza is £31, a tuna tartare starter is £24 – but you can't fault the cooking, and the plush room, with its private alcoves, is a joy. But then, you've been already, right? **CB**

● **The power table is 35**

Criminal (re)masterminds

Forties-set detective thriller LA Noire is back with a current-gen remake that uses ultra-res graphics and VR to bring you closer than ever to cracking the case

THE VIDEO GAME

LA Noire is the inverse of publisher Rockstar's best-known series *Grand Theft Auto*, casting you as a watchful detective, hunting clues, deviants and life sentences. The setting is spectacular: 1947, a world of cigarette-chewing gumshoes, panoramically wide chrome cars and sun-bronzed cadavers. This rerelease brings period Los Angeles exquisitely to life with new cinematography, improved textures, 4K resolution and virtual reality. Here's why it matters...

It's completist

You play as Cole Phelps, a decorated Second World War veteran turned LAPD detective tasked with solving a range of homicide, vice and arson cases involving everyone from deadbeat Johns to Hollywood starlets. Every case from the original game is included in this rerelease, along with the five add-on chapters that came later. The cases echo real-world murders of the era, as well as plots from film classics such as *Chinatown*, *The Naked City* and *LA Confidential*.

It's intimate

When *LA Noire* first launched in 2011, it was remarkable for using a new motion capture technology to translate the actors' performances into the game. Phelps is played by *Mad Men*'s Aaron Staton, whose every frown and smirk is realised on screen. Far from a mere gimmick, this becomes fundamental to gameplay, as you must scrutinise a suspect's face while interviewing. The new Nintendo Switch version of the game includes touchscreen controls to bring a hands-on quality to the process.

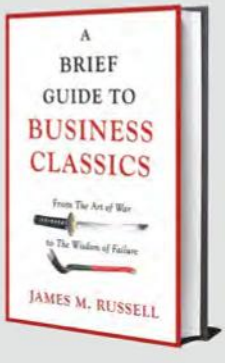
It's immersive

This remake of the original game is slated for all of the current consoles and, as well as a raft of technical improvements, introduces improved camera angles, designed to make searching crime scenes and interrogating suspects more straightforward. The PC version includes support for HTC's tear-jerkingly expensive Vive virtual reality headset. Here, seven cases from the original have been remade for VR, allowing players to prod and parlay with murderers while up close and personal.

It's back!

The strain of making and completing *LA Noire* was, reportedly, too much for the developer to bear. The studio, Team Bondi, was disbanded immediately after the game's launch. As such, this remake is our best hope for a return to a world that remains, despite its faults, a singular, visionary and unforgettable crime-drama experience and one that, in Phelps, finds a character who channels both the spirit and style of Hollywood's most iconic era. **Simon Parkin**

LA Noire is out now.



Taking care of business

James Russell has read all the major business books so you don't have to. His new volume, *A Brief Guide To Business Classics,* summarises 70 titles ancient and modern. Here are the kernels of three...

The book: *Pre-Suasion* by Robert Cialdini (2016)
The crux: Timing is everything – there is an optimum window of opportunity to best send out your message. Don't try to change someone's mind – change their state of mind.

The book: *The Innovator's Dilemma* by Clayton M Christensen (1997)
The crux: A company can listen to their existing customers and react to their feedback, and, as a direct result, fail to see the niche opportunities for new product innovations which might appeal to demographics that they currently don't service.

The book: *The 48 Laws Of Power* by Robert Greene (1998)
The crux: Law four: "Always say less than necessary." Simple. **CB**

A Brief Guide To Business Classics (Robinson, £13.99) is out on 7 December.

Build a Woah! Record Library

#12 Sladest

By **Slade** (Polydor, 1973)

The vinyl revival remains in rude health. **Dylan Jones** selects an overlooked classic to hunt out next time you're flicking through the crates...

It's easy to make fun of Slade. Easy to mock. Easy to laugh at their trash terrace aesthetic, their 12-bar oikishness and the ridiculous mirrored top hats. With 17 consecutive Top 20 hits and six No1s between 1970 and 1975 (many of them included here), Slade were the lingua franca of glam, the reductive end of androgyny, the hapless beneficiaries of a nation with more sentimentality than taste (their almost subliminally popular holiday anthem "Merry Xmas Everybody" has been on sale continuously since it was released in 1973; it has never been deleted, never been rereleased). Slade equalled music for yobs, silly haircuts and chain-store platforms. They were what you listened to at the rugby club on a Saturday night, before you had a bust-up with your ex's ex and the inevitable fight outside the chip shop. Hod-carriers in eyeliner, they were the acceptable face of glam rock, much to the annoyance of those like Roxy Music, Lou Reed and David Bowie, who tended to take themselves rather more seriously. Yet they connected. Dovetail tight. Mott The Hoople's Ian Hunter said once that when his band were deep into glam that he felt like a "brickie in gilt", and yet Slade just thought it was a way of securing success. Smack on a bit of glitter – who cares? During 1972 and 1973, Slade were so big, so enormously popular, that even the combined panstick of Marc Bolan and David Bowie found it hard to match them. T Rex appealed to the young girls, Bowie to the aesthetes and Slade, well, Slade appealed to anyone who turned up – a packet of Bensons pushed up into the shoulder of their T-shirt, a pint on the bar and a girl on the dancefloor (with whom said Slade fan would arrive with, leave with, and then ignore at every opportunity in between).

BRING YOUR 'A' GAME

No.37

Survive a kidnapping

When Andy McNab was in the SAS, he was held behind enemy lines in Iraq, as described in his book Bravo Two Zero. In case you ever find yourself taken captive, we asked him how to get through it...

1 Become the grey man

Don't get kidnapped in the first place – avoid presenting yourself as a person of value. Pro tip: give a false name when you book a cab to pick you up from the airport. Kidnappers often look up the names on the waiting drivers' signs to see if their passengers are wealthy executives.

2 Create distance

If somebody tries to lift you, create distance between yourself and the problem: run to a safe place, for instance, or jump from a window. If that's not possible, comply but try to escape at every opportunity. "If they've got pistols, they've got to be good shots to take you down as a moving target."

3 Forge a relationship

Humanising yourself will make it harder for them to kill you. Tell them your name, talk about family. Oh, and start smoking. "The universal bond is smoking. It gives you a mutual need with the captor plus you get physical contact with their hands and eye-to-eye contact when you're saying thank you."

4 Don't lose your mind

Here's a technique for staying sane in solitary confinement: "An American pilot had six years of solitary in North Vietnam. He built a house brick by brick in his head, working on it every day. Then he did the gardens. Once that was done, he said, 'Right, the house needs repainting...'"

5 Play the endgame

Relationship with your guards deteriorating? Being moved more often? Things are going wrong for your captors. If you suspect they're about to kill you, you may as well fight. On the other hand, rescue might be imminent. When special forces arrive, don't try to grab them: "They're trained to drop if you do."

Photographs **Josh Caudwell** Illustrations **Dave Hopkins; Dale Edwin Murray**

Augment your life: Three substitutions to make this month

Ditch: **The Telegraph sports section**

Start reading: **The Independent (no, really)**

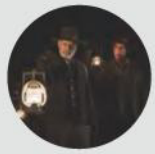
Not so long ago, the *Telegraph*'s sports pages were the best around, with a line-up showcasing youth (Jonathan Liew) and experience (Henry Winter). Both have since had transfers, with the *Independent* emerging as the Spurs of Fleet Street, as Liew joins Jack Pitt-Brooke: the Kane and Alli of sports writing.

Forget: **Bermondsey Street**

Get excited about: **Camden Lock Village**

Granted, the cuisine conga-line that is Bermondsey Street isn't downing chopsticks and copper cocktail cups any time soon, but there's a north-of-the-river rival on the horizon. Camden Lock Village, set to be finished this spring, boasts eight buildings with a new market, cinema and a big-buzz food quarter.

Pause: **Your podcast**



Watch it on: **Your TV**

Like podcasts? Of course you do. Everyone does. Which is why TV wants a slice of the action: 2017 saw the spooky-story podcast *Lore* adapted by Amazon, and TV versions of everything from *Serial* to *Homecoming* (starring Julia Roberts) are getting the pod-to-gogglebox conversion. **Stuart McGurk**

THE COLOGNE EDIT

Time to change up your fragrance regimen

Whether you're out, in or on an assignation, Boss has got it bottled

A well-selected scent has the power to evoke fond memories, refocus your ensemble or simply help you smell great. Choosing your personal fragrance is a meticulous process, much like picking your profile picture on a dating app. You want it to represent who you are but also highlight your best attributes, draw people in but still leave them wanting more. Need a bit of guidance to make sure your scent says all the right things? We spoke to Lewis Peacock, fragrance expert at Coty Luxury, about Hugo Boss' classic aftershave and its two latest additions to the range.

"Here you have three prestigious options," he says. "Boss Bottled is a timeless classic, familiar yet contemporary – a fragrance for any well-dressed man, with key notes of bergamot, geranium and cedarwood. Next, Boss Bottled Intense makes the boldest statement of the three. Its rich woods entwined with cinnamon make it one for very confident men. Lastly, Boss Bottled Tonic has an invigorating freshness. Hints of spice and citrus give it a relaxed warmth and it reflects the wearer's natural self-assurance, even in jeans and T-shirt." **Carlotta Constant** *From £62 for 100ml. hugoboss.com*

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NIXON

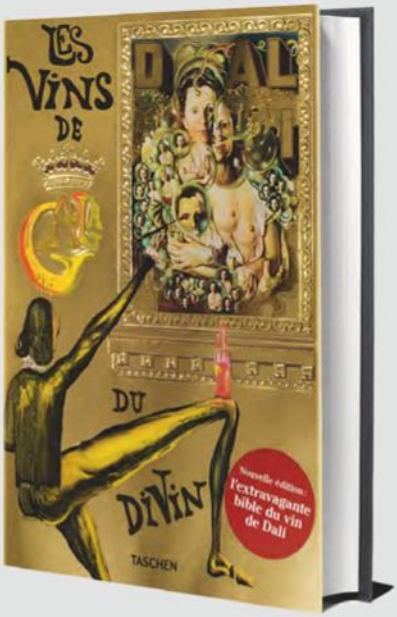
THE MISSION

androidwear

Dalí's wine manifesto

As wine has moved into the purview of hipsterdom, viticulture has become increasingly experimental, embracing unusual grapes and novel techniques. (Underwater ageing! Weed infusions!) Against this background, a lost book has been rediscovered. Salvador Dalí's *The Wines Of Gala* – Gala, of course, being the artist's Russian muse – was his 1977 surrealist spin on a wine bible. This kaleidoscopic volume categorises bottles not by region or colour but by sensation – "Wines of Frivolity", "Wines of the Impossible" – and acted as a follow-up to Dalí's cookbook, *Les Diners De Gala*. Thirty years on, Taschen is resurrecting his forgotten guide to the grape for the wine renaissance that it portended. Come for hypnagogic illustrations, stay for the freewheeling essays. **CB**

Dalí. The Wines of Gala (Taschen, £49.99) is out now.



THE **BOOK** TO COLLECT

The artist's surreal and sensual Seventies cookbook was a feast for the eyes. Now, Taschen is republishing his full-bodied – and long forgotten – viticultural vision

Strokes of genius: Wines Of Gala features 140 illustrations by Dalí (below), including wine, nudes and, erm, cats

Photographs Salvador Dalí/Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí, Figueres, 2017

‘We needed something confident, with a discreet attitude’

Bag by Dunhill, £2,895.
dunhill.com

Bag by Dunhill, £2,895.
dunhill.com

Folio by Dunhill, £1,295.
dunhill.com

Coat, £3,390. Jumper, £150. Trousers, £295. Belt, £210. All by **Dunhill**. dunhill.com

Grooming **Joe Mills using KM and Dermalogica** Fashion assistant **Conor Bond**

Dunhill, redone

Aidan Turner is leading the historic British tailoring house in a bold new direction

When a fashion brand signs a new face, it's usually a statement of purpose. So what does it say about Dunhill, the storied suiting label, that it has hired *Poldark* star Aidan Turner (*pictured*)? "Aidan embodies the new contemporary direction of Dunhill," explains creative director Mark Weston. Through Turner, he argues, Dunhill can exhibit "our newly elevated aesthetic".

"Dunhill wouldn't have necessarily been a brand on my radar but they've really changed things. I'm a huge fan now," says Turner. "The big test was seeing the new collection in its entirety, I remember thinking these guys clearly know where they are at and I wanted to get involved. It all works."

The move to give the brand's signature tailoring a more contemporary edge comes amid much upheaval in the fashion industry. Weston's is a new appointment and it coincides with leadership changes across a raft of houses. Since taking the helm of Dunhill in May, Weston has orchestrated a "quiet revolution".

Founded in London in 1893, by inventor Alfred Dunhill, the brand has been steeped in British heritage for over a century. Initially, it produced motoring accessories before evolving to specialise in ready-to-wear and bespoke men's clothes, as well as other leather goods. Now, it seems, Dunhill is ready for its next chapter. Weston's first Autumn/Winter collection is a confident play, carving out the brand's future as one of innovation as much as luxury. Tailored pieces in mohair and silk seersucker, for example, complement the brand's character while introducing Weston's sense of modernity.

Turner himself is enjoying new chapters in his career. First is a theatrical project. "It's been about six or seven years since I've been on stage – well, it certainly feels that long," says the 34-year-old. And then there's *Poldark*, of course, which is about to take a change of tack. "This season is a very different direction for [Turner's character] Ross. He spends less time in Cornwall and more time in London," he says, "which suits me down to the ground." **CC**

THE STYLE GUIDE

PORTRAIT BY **Jake Walters** STYLING BY **Tom Stubbs**

Jacket, £1,895. Hoodie, £225. Both by **Dunhill**. dunhill.com. Ring by **Toby McLellan**, from £300. tobymclellan.com

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GQ Grooming Awards 2018
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*with AdaptiveClean brush head, in vivo testing, 129 participants, Data on file, 2014.
†Data on file, 2011.

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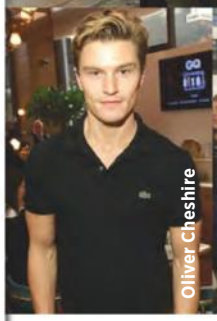
Rick Edwards

Alexis Gilmore and Melissa Bancroft

Sacha Mitie and Joel Dommett

Tony Bonaventura and Isaac Carew

Rob Smith


Oliver Cheshire

Philip Hamilton and Marie Moatti

Richard Biedul

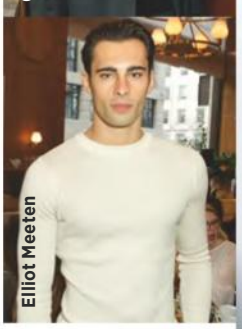
Bluey Robinson

THE PARTY PAGE

GQ Grooming Awards 2018

Mayfair's Michelin-starred Aquavit London attracted a well-coiffed crowd for the tenth GQ Grooming Awards, in association with Philips. Hosted by sharp-witted comedian Joel Dommett, the morning ceremony anointed winners in 22 categories: alongside longstanding decorations – Best Moisturiser, Best Razor – we also ushered in five new awards, including Best Grooming Experience and Best Gym. As ever, they were all judged with care by our esteemed panel, which this year included Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Ben Foden, Isaac Carew and Bluey Robinson. Here's how the event unfolded...

Oliver Proudlock


Elliot Meeten

Chris Newby and Joel Dommett

Reece King, Lucien Clarke, Cody Saintgnue, Matthew Ball and Anders Hayward

Dougie Poynter

Photographs James Mason

Perimeter Monitoring Kit by Panasonic ▼

Best for: hack proofing

This bundle of two mains-powered cameras plus wireless hub promises to protect your home using motion, temperature and infrared detection. Two cameras might not cover your "perimeter", but their tamper-proof DECT (digital enhanced cordless telecommunications) connection makes the setup especially secure.

£249.99. panasonic.com

Presence by Netatmo ▶

Best for: image recognition

This zonable motion-sensitive camera can distinguish between humans, animals and cars and notify you accordingly. It has to be wired into the mains but footage can be automatically uploaded to Dropbox. As a bonus, it has a security floodlight that's seriously bright.

£249.99. netatmo.com

Argus by Reolink ▼

Best for: affordability

There's a lot to love about this wireless HD camera: it's inconspicuous, it has two-way audio and comes with a loud siren. There is, however, one major area for improvement: all video is saved to an internal SD card (additional), so if an intruder stole the camera you would lose the evidence.

£76. reolink.com

THE LAB TEST

Inspector gadgets

The smart home is leaving the house with a new wave of web-connected cameras that can withstand the elements. Armed with motion detection, night vision, face recognition and cloud computing, these robo-sentinels will keep watch for you Mission: Impossible-style

▼ Arlo Pro by Netgear

Best for: wire cutting

You can't plug the Arlo Pro into the mains, but the company promises that the rechargeable batteries should last for around six months. Footage is stored for free on the cloud for seven days, but it is the most expensive of the group and requires a separate "hub".

£490. arlo.com

◀ Cam Outdoor by Nest

Best for: slickness

Sure, it's got night vision, motion detection and shape recognition (so swaying trees don't trigger an alert), but the real sell here is the design. It has the satisfying curves and finish you might associate with Apple, and the app is full of settings that are easy to navigate.

£152. nest.com

Video Doorbell 2 by Ring ▲

Best for: two in one

Here's a neat idea: a doorbell that doubles as an HD wireless security camera. When someone pushes the buzzer, you can see who's there and speak to them over the Ring app. It saves footage of visitors to the cloud and also records video whenever motion is detected.

£179. ring.com

▲ Outdoor HD Pro by Y-cam

Best for: deterrence

It's not pretty, but there's no doubt that the Outdoor HD Pro, with its traditional design, immediately communicates to potential burglars that your property is monitored. You can define motion "zones" and, while there's no SD slot, it comes with three years of unlimited cloud storage.

£180. y-cam.com

Photograph Wilson Hennessy

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Panel of experts (left): Creative director Daniel Kearns at Kent & Curwen's newly clad flagship store

THE BRAND TO WATCH

Kent & Curwen scores again

For the interior of Kent & Curwen's new shop on Floral Street in London, the label's creative director, Daniel Kearns, did some gruelling research: visiting a whole host of the capital's historic watering holes. The walls, tiled in a black and white chequered pattern, he tells us, are inspired by some of his favourite drinking spots, such as The Ten Bells in Spitalfields and The Windsor Castle in Kensington.

But while there's a hint of your local here, this is a space that mixes traditional British style with a "right now" feel. "We didn't want something pristine and clean," he says, pointing out the Cambridge blue paint, square panelling and grey-painted wood floor. "We wanted something that felt more rugged. To achieve a mix of heritage and new."

It's a vibe that reflects what Kearns has achieved with Kent & Curwen in the two seasons since its relaunch, alongside his business partner, David Beckham.

Established in 1926 by Eric Kent and Dorothy Curwen, Kent & Curwen made club ties before branching into cricket sweaters. Today, it retains its sport connection by including roughed-up rugby shirts, slimmed-down cricket jumpers and regatta blazers, such as the one pictured, which recently arrived at Floral Street in limited numbers. If you missed it, good news: more exclusives will drop as the season progresses. We'll drink to that. **Nick Carvell**

12 Floral Street, London WC2. kentandcurwen.com

Blazer, £995. Shirt, £175. T-shirt, £75. Trousers, £250. Scarf, £95. Boots, £295.

Far left: Jumper, £395. Trousers, £250. Boots, £295. All by **Kent & Curwen**. kentandcurwen.com

Phtotographs **Benjamin McMahon**

THE ARTIST TO WATCH

Tom Walker

When 25-year-old Mancunian musician Tom Walker bought his Glastonbury ticket in the spring, he had no idea that two months later he would be on the bill. But having just signed to Sony Music and appeared on NBC's *Today* show – thanks to his blend of soul, pop and reggae racking up more than 50 million streams on Spotify – maybe he should have seen it coming.

And, perhaps, been more prepared. "I couldn't get any wristbands for my crew. I carried my gear on this tiny little trailer for an hour and a half to the BBC tent, set myself up, then dragged it all the way back," says Walker, who spent the rest of the UK festival circuit sleeping in his car. "I had nine weeks of having an absolute mad one. I lost myself a bit," he says.

A bad experience with drink and drugs, and his subsequent recovery, inspired material for the upcoming debut album, which includes recent hit single "Leave A Light On". "It's a song that says, 'Even if it's all going down the pan, your friends and family will sort you out,'" says Walker. "I'm saying, 'Don't worry about it. It's all good.'" **EH**

Tom Walker's debut album is out in spring 2018. Visit GQ's Vero channel for more exclusive content. vero.co

Out of the woods: Tom Walker shot the video for his first hit single, 'Leave A Light On', in Croatia in September

THE RUMOUR MILL

BY **Alex Wickham**

David Davis is often accused of treating his job delivering Brexit as a part-time role. So colleagues were surprised to see him at his desk watching a live stream of the birds he keeps at home. DD had a webcam installed at his house so he could keep an eye on his feathered friends. Not as if he has anything else to be doing...

It is no secret in Westminster that Scottish Tory leader Ruth Davidson and Boris Johnson are sworn enemies. I hear that if Boris became prime minister, Ruth would consider splitting away and forming her own centrist party, taking the Scottish Tories with her.

On election night, the BBC wrongly reported that Tory MP Philip Davies had lost his seat. Davies received a call from then-chief whip Gavin Williamson the next day, offering commiserations. Williamson wasn't the only one fooled: Davies still has to insist to disbelieving colleagues that he is still an MP.

Labour MP Laura Pidcock caused an almighty row when she said she wouldn't hang out with a Tory. Sadly it's a view shared by her Corbynista colleagues. Emma Dent Coad, the new Kensington MP who mocked Prince Harry's war record, agrees. "Like Laura, I choose who I socialise with," she said, claiming Tory MPs are "what you would expect – braying, disrespectful and discourteous". She would know...

Photograph **Nives Miljesic**

Delta force (from left): School friends Jeremy Chan and Iré Hassan-Odukale opened their Nigerian restaurant together; (right) Zoe's Ghana Kitchen in Pop Brixton

Great plates of Africa

Moroccan? Boring. The capital's restaurants are now looking south of the Sahara

Ikoyi

1 St James's Market, SW1.
ikoyilondon.com

Cuisine: Nigerian.
The aim of old school friends Iré Hassan-Odukale and Jeremy Chan is simple: shift perceptions of West African food.

How? By boldly reimagining Nigerian recipes with cutting-edge cooking techniques and presentation.

The setting: Ikoyi is a plush, cosmopolitan district of Nigeria's largest city, Lagos, and the design takes its cues from there. It's fit for fine dining, with whitewashed walls, mustard banquettes and lush plants.

The dishes: Upscale takes on simple food – jollof rice with rich smoked bone marrow and groundnut miso, say, or Nigerian tiger prawns with banga bisque and corn grits.

The drinks: Cocktails include the Guinness Stone Fence – rum infused with cocoa and lengthened by Nigerian Guinness – and Roast Plantain Old Fashioned, a buttery number that evokes Nigeria's climate.

Hammer & Tongs

171 Farringdon Road, EC1.
hammertongs.co.uk

Cuisine: South African.
Laying claim to London's largest wood-fired "braai" – a three-metres long barbecue that uses sickle bush hardwood imported from South Africa – this ambitious kitchen near Exmouth Market serves meat at its smoky, aromatic best.

The setting: The two-floor location is more glossy Cape Town than edgy Joburg, with flattering lighting, model-approved mirrors and the look-at-me barbecue centrepiece.

The dishes: Start with sosaties (skewers of spiced meats) before moving on to an equally carnivorous main. The standouts: boerewors (beef sausage); pig cheek and pineapple potjie (a one-pot cook-up); and whole lamb breast on the bone with rosemary, cumin, coriander and chilli.

The drinks: South African wines pack enough punch to keep the party going well beyond dessert.

Zoe's Ghana Kitchen

Unit 36, Pop Brixton,
49 Brixton Station Road, SW9.
zoesghanakitchen.co.uk

Cuisine: Ghanaian.
With a series of much-loved pop-ups behind her, and now a shiny new cookbook too, Zoe Adjonyoh is one of the city's hottest chefs. Her cooking draws on the exotic ingredients brought home to London by her Ghanaian father when she was a child.

The setting: The cosy spot is housed within an old shipping container in South London and is styled on a "chop bar" – the roadside cafés renowned in West Africa.

The dishes: Zoe's grilled lamb cutlets melt in your mouth and come with her signature peanut sauce. Veggie? The "Red Red" spiced bean stew is a bestseller.

The drinks: The Jollof Mary certainly lives up to its billing as "hotter than a hammam", but for something less fiery, try the hibiscus-infused gin and cava cocktails.

Lemlem kitchen

Netil Market, 23 Westgate Street,
E8. lemlemkitchen.co.uk

Cuisine: Eritrean.
Founders Makda and Jack Harlow combine warm Eritrean flavours with recognisable western favourites – Asmara, the capital of Madka's hometown, was built by Italian modernists and the restaurant reflects the cultural mix.

The setting: Sunshine beams in from every corner of this shack-style stand. The design is an homage to the Agip service station in Godaif, Eritrea, and is rendered entirely in art deco stucco.

The dishes: "Afro-tacos" are the signature and feature fillings such as coffee- and black cardamom-braised beef shin, spiced lamb and red lentil, all stuffed into spongy injera flatbreads. We also like the double-fried "awaze" chicken wings.

The drinks: The Areki shot, a regional alcoholic drink, hits the spot. Team with a hot buttered rum or three. **Nicky Rampley-Clarke**

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A tale of two tailors

We celebrate Thom Sweeney's new capsule compilation of greatest hits

THE STYLE FOCUS

Over the past ten years, Thom Sweeney has become a cult – a beautiful, perfectly tailored cult that boasts members at the highest echelons of the style scene: David Gandy, James Norton, Bradley Cooper, Johannes Heubl and Ryan Gosling, to name a few. Its carefully crafted doctrine of soft-shouldered suits, horseshoe waistcoats, tab-waist trousers and louche knitwear is so good it inspires art from fans – much of which is posted to the label's Instagram account (*@thom__sweeney*). And it's all for one simple reason: the men behind it get how men want to dress today.

Founded by the perma-suited Thom Whiddett and Luke Sweeney (perhaps the best advertisement for their brand's smart-casual vibe) while working for tailor Timothy Everest, the duo set out designing bespoke suits in London's Mayfair, opening their first studio on Weighhouse Street in 2009, before launching a ready-to-wear line with Mr Porter in 2013, followed by a store on Bruton Place. In November, they opened their first location in New York on West Broadway.

In short, Thom Sweeney's rise from small bespoke tailor to internationally coveted superbrand has been impressively fast. "We're still babies in such a historic industry really," says Sweeney, when *GQ* talks to the pair at their Bruton Street outpost – a few streets from the Savile Row houses that have been cutting suits for centuries. And like those houses, Whiddett and Sweeney believe their brand's success is down to having a strong bespoke service, one that has responded to men's rapidly changing tastes over the past few years.

"When you think of tailoring, you immediately think of suits," says Sweeney. "That's the thing that's changed through the years since we started – men are wearing more separates now and don't just want traditional suits. I don't think we would have been making a bespoke bomber jacket ten years ago." And as Whiddett says, "The fabric is from Loro Piana, so the influence of our bespoke is there. And we've worked on the arm holes, making them higher and the silhouette slimmer like our suit jackets."

Now they're ploughing what they've learned into an exclusive 19-piece anniversary capsule line for Mr Porter. In Sweeney's words, it's a greatest hits compilation of pieces that have "been significant in our ready-to-wear journey so far". We particularly like the wool herringbone gilet, the navy linen shirt and the electric-blue suit. But whatever you go for, we guarantee they're the sort of sleek staples that will last you until the brand's next milestone anniversary – and beyond. **NC**

The Thom Sweeney collection is available now at mrporter.com

Gilet by **Thom Sweeney**, £1,095. At mrporter.com

'We wouldn't have made a bespoke bomber jacket ten years ago'

Suits you From sophisticated T-shirts to jackets with a twist, fast-track to style with these Thom Sweeney picks

Jacket, £2,600.

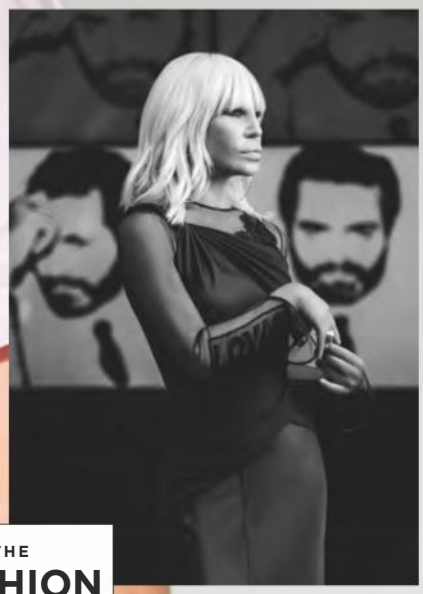
T-shirt, £235.

Shirt, £225.

Jacket, £1,095.

All by **Thom Sweeney**. At mrporter.com

Photograph **Benjamin McMahon**



Revert to type: Donatella Versace (right) includes sporty pieces emblazoned with the original logo in the label's 'tribute' Spring 2018 collection

THE
FASHION
OPENING

Viva Versace

As the revered Italian brand opens its latest London outpost – an eco-aware boutique that carries its founder's legacy into 2018 – creative director Donatella Versace reveals how her brother still inspires the label's every move

It's a big year for Versace. Twenty years after the untimely death of the fashion house's designer-founder, Gianni, his successor, Donatella, has dedicated her Spring 2018 collection to the legacy of her late, and very great, brother, including a re-creation of the knockout finale to his Autumn/Winter 1991 show with the original supers: Carla Bruni, Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell, Cindy Crawford and Helena Christensen.

Versace has always celebrated superwomen, but which men do Donatella feel represent the brand now? "I love it when Matt Damon, Ryan Reynolds or Bruno Mars wear Versace," she says, adding, "My muses are the men I see out on the street all over the world. When I design my collections, I think about all of them."

Speaking exclusively to *GQ*, Donatella, the Versace creative director, explained how she is keeping the brand alive, 40 years on from its inception. "History is the answer to all our future's questions. To survive, to prosper, to innovate, we all must learn from the past, study it, respect it, embrace it and finally take

'Gianni and I were both rebels from the beginning. We pushed each other to take risks'

ownership of it so we are able to build our future."

The latest show certainly proved that the house is moving forward, teaming Gianni's renowned, exuberant and exotic prints from the past with modern, sportier silhouettes. Having pored over past campaigns, Donatella realised how contemporary the Versace logo of the Eighties looks today. "I found it extremely modern and youthful, yet authentic." The typeface is used on a series of T-shirts (*opposite, £250*) that Donatella produced to mark this commemorative year, and which will be available at a new London shop, which opens on 5 December in London's Knightsbridge.

As Donatella explains, she channelled her ecological convictions into the new boutique. "It will be the first on Sloane Street to become Leed [Leadership In Energy And Environmental Design]-certified. It means that this store will not only save energy and water, but it will also reduce waste and support human health. This is the first step of a much larger project and I am very proud of it."

It's certainly set to be an impressive structure and aptly timed as part of this anniversary year for the brand, a moment that prompts a certain nostalgia in Donatella. When *GQ* asks the best style advice she was ever given, the Italian replies, "It was Gianni who first convinced me to dye my hair blonde when I was a teenager. I was his little doll. He created my look, one that I have worn ever since. He was my best advisor. We were both rebels from the beginning and pushed each other to go further, to take bigger risks. The philosophy is what made me become the person that I am today: someone who is not afraid to break rules, to think outside the box, to always be curious and open-minded."

As the designer celebrates the milestone in London, Donatella, whose house has produced an impressive class of British creatives in their own right, shares how she champions talent in the UK. "British talents are my biggest passion. Did you know that for the past 30 years British designers have worked in my team? It has been one of my greatest pleasures to watch friends such as Christopher Kane and JW Anderson become the global figures they are today." **Grace Gilfeather**

179-180 Sloane Street, London SW1. versace.com

Model shop (from top): The new boutique on London's Sloane Street; (bottom left) Gianni Versace with his muses in Milan, 1991; (bottom right) the women reunite for Milan Fashion Week, 2017

Photographs **Corbis; Getty Images; Rahi Rezvani**

THE
ENTREPRENEUR

Simon Talling-Smith

The European CEO of private jet company Surf Air – flying high with 4,000 members around the world and more than 500 journeys per week – explains how his business took off

University College, Oxford

You can find your passion later

"I couldn't say I spent my life dreaming of planes in the sky while at Oxford. I saw British Airways had a great training programme. Those four years stretched to 22 years by accident."

Simon Talling-Smith worked for British Airways for 22 years before striking out alone

Style is an important signifier

"All the other airline crews wear shiny black shoes and suits, but that's not Surf Air. There is a Californian edge to our company. I got into the habit of wearing jeans to work."

Simon Talling-Smith steps off a Surf Air plane

Based Stafford, UK
Age 49

EDUCATION

1979 – 1986
Warwick School, Warwick

1987 – 1991
University College, Oxford (MA in engineering, economics and management)

CAREER IN BRIEF

1991 – 1995
British Airways training scheme; two years running operations in Botswana

1995 – 2001
Head of corporate products, British Airways

2001 – 2004
Head of e-commerce, British Airways

2004 – 2006
Head of product management, British Airways

2006 – 2008
Head of inflight service, British Airways

2008 – 2013
Executive vice-president, the Americas, British Airways

2013 – 2016
President of products and emerging business at Travelzoo

2016 – present
CEO, Surf Air Europe

Move to California

"The simple fact is 50 per cent of the world's entire venture capital is in Silicon Valley."

Let them grill you

"At British Airways I set up a live chatroom every week and 500 to 2,000 crew from around the world would watch and fire questions at me. It was a really interesting experiment."

British Airways' training base, Botswana

Joining a startup can be worth the risk

"When I left BA it had 46,000 employees whereas Travelzoo had 500. The important thing is you can always go back to big companies if it doesn't work out."

Travelzoo's website publishes tourism deals from more than 2,000 operators

Pick your customers carefully

"Surf Air's subscription model means we can self-select the most valuable customers. If you've got a plane with 100 people, big carriers are making nearly all the profit out of about five people."

Story by **Conrad Quilty-Harper** Photographs **Getty Images**

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TORINO, ITALIA, 1895

THIS MONTH: SUIT YOURSELF p.66 DENIM'S NEW DO p.71 DON'T BE LAZY p.73 SKETCHY GOODS p.74 KEEP IT BRIEF p.76

GQ

This is for the style lodestars. The agitators. The peacocks. This section believes in combining an aesthete's eye with an inner rebelliousness. From killer opinion to white-hot trends, these pages are not about following tradition, but beating your own path. Welcome to GQ's...

New House Rules

EDITED BY **Jonathan Heaf**

Photograph **Steve Schapiro**

Hat people: The beret is back. But you still need a Bowie-like bravado to make it work – page 69

The business case for... never breaking the suit

You're tempted – of course you are – but remember this: whoever said that packing your suit trousers and wearing your jacket onto the plane, teamed with a pair of dark denims in winter or pale-as-veal chinos in summertime is OK is just plain *wrong*. A suit's a suit, either wear it (and be confused for an envoy of the ECB en route to sorting out some recalcitrant southern European debtors) or consign it to the hold (*never* in a suit-carrier) and don what you should be wearing anyway: one of this season's standout sports jackets. The elegant solution to midair business-casual and an artefact, then as now, proven to address that perennial problem: what does one wear when not wearing a suit and not shovelling snow off the driveway? Bullitt wore one; Burton lived in his (when he wasn't wearing to-the-floor fur), so don't succumb to the noughties "players" and Hollywood holdouts who think smart-casual starts from the waist down. It's the other way round, old sport. **Bill Prince**
PS Drake's are doing a good one at the moment...

Broken men: Keanu Reeves, Colin Farrell and Scott Eastwood pair suit jackets and jeans (do not do this)

NIGHT

24-HOUR STYLE

By Alfred Tong

7am - 8am
Get steamy, sensibly

You honk of vanilla – secondary smoke from a vape – stale Ruinart, Chanel EDP (theirs?) and, actually, now you think about it, pretty decent sex. Evidence of a life well lived? Not to the puritans at work it isn't. And, yes, you're still drunk. Time to sweat the toxins out of your pale cadaver. City baths such as the one on Marshall Street in Soho, London, open from 6.30am. You can also experience a "thermal suit" at Third Space at London Bridge. For the former, strip and hang yourself in their steam room. Come to think of it, this early there's no one around, so take the opportunity to hang your suit alongside you. It'll make the creases fall out and eliminate those shameful odours.

8am - 9am
Tap a vein, Hollywood style

Well done, you no longer smell like a waiter after a ten-hour shift. Your head, however, is making you nauseous. The tonic? Check into the Reviv clinic in Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, for an intravenous cure. According to medical insiders, it's the type hedonistic junior docs use to beat hangovers. The Ultraviv injection combines B12 vitamins and pure saline solution. You feel a shiver as the cold liquid pumps into your bloodstream. Pay £200 to feel like a million bucks? Sold. Vitamin Injections London – a service where founder Bianca Estelle provides call-outs anytime – is another option, as is Get A Drip in Shoreditch. Get yourself pricked.

10am
The shirt off your back

You can't get lipstick off your shirt, trust us we've tried for 30 minutes already. So you order a white Charvet shirt plus a pair of superfine cotton boxer-briefs from Sunspel and a pair of Falke socks – all from Mr Porter. Order before 10am and they'll get it to your office within a two-hour slot before 5pm. If that isn't quick enough for you, Asos have started doing a same-day delivery service, Asos Instant, and if you're going out again (God help you) matchesfashion.com have a turbo service that allows you to get your order in 90 minutes between 6.30am and 8.30pm. Choose neutral, soft basics and leave the statement jumpers for a brighter day.

CRAWLER!

The details are fuzzy, but last night went something like this: You were at Loulou's. Or was it the new Annabel's? They walked straight up to you and whispered, "Shall we?" You are now somewhere in North London, in a bed with a not unattractive person lying next to you. "Good work," you think... Work? And then it hits you: it's Tuesday, with two hours to get your boardroom-best face on. You pick your clothes up off the floor and step into the cold morning sun. It's too late to go home now...

11am
Mirror, mirror

A glance in the mirror shocks you. You call Alexia Inge, cofounder and CEO of online retailer Cult Beauty. She doesn't actually say, "Have you been a dirty stop-out?" but she doesn't need to. Inge, ever discreet and resourceful, couriers over a care package that includes the Skin Hangover Kit by Skyn Iceland. You run into the office bathroom and administer the Hydro Cool Firming Eye Gel like a junkie. It's fresh. You feel the sublime rush of hydration. Bliss. Keep going, however, as mixing all those drinks last night has made your skin exceptionally dry. You apply something called the Skyn Iceland Fresh Start Mask. In just a matter of minutes, your skin is now lovely and dewy; the crazed Ketel One redness around your eyes has vanished. Other face-savers include: Hermès Eau d'Orange Verte refreshing wipes and, for real emergencies, Tom Ford's concealer. Wow. You look human. Almost.

1pm
Fuel. Nap. Confess

Congratulations, you've made it to lunch. Now, some fuel. You can't run on adrenalin and Nurofen alone. The only option? Eggs benedict at The Wolseley. Get a decent table within the inner quadrant facing the entrance. (The ignominy of being put in the outer ring, aka social Siberia, is more than you can bear right now.) The eggs will get your metabolism running. Still, a 30-minute power nap will ensure you zing in the 5pm office huddle with your boss. Book yourself a local hotel room via dayuse.co.uk or grab a few winks on a pew at St James's Church on Jermyn Street. While you're there why not purge your guilt with a confession? Remember: church is essentially free therapy with better architecture.

2pm
'The livener': Part I

The effects of the IV drip have now worn off. Your hands are shaking and you feel that creeping existential dread while pretending to make work calls. You look inside the care package Alexia Inge sent you and there's a jar of Moon Juice Power Dust. Yes, seriously. Inge says, "It's for gym bunnies. It promotes metabolic function and accelerates recovery. Put some in a healthy smoothie." It is packed with immunity-boosting ingredients such as astragalus, revitalising ginseng, organic eleuthero, schisandra (a "superberry", no less), rhodiola and organic stevia. You whack a couple of teaspoons in your Monmouth coffee and hope for the best. If that isn't working fast enough call on the Mylk Man (*mylkman.co.uk*), who can deliver a bottle of fresh nut milk to your desk – its matcha-infused version will protect the brain from neuro-chemical reactions (the bad ones) and help clean out your aching liver of toxins.

4pm
'The livener': Part II

The vitamin boost worked – or as well as might be expected – but now you are hanging like a dog's tongue after too much exercise. You rummage around and find a bottle of Therapie Energy Lift. You roll it on your pulse points and breathe; the smell of rosemary, wild rose, silver fir, basil and wild mint buys you another three hours before home time.

8pm
The final act

You made it. And only Adam from accounts spotted you nodding off. You can buy his silence with a flapjack tomorrow. Home, you kick off your boots and run a hot bath, into which you put Himalayan Detox Salts by Therapie. It feels like floating in liquid Valium. You feel detoxified, re-energised and ready for bed. Suddenly, your phone goes off. It's your new friend from last night. "Ready for round two, honeybun?"

8.15pm
Clean. Spruce. Repeat

Get dressed again, honeybun. Pick out your best shirt from Prada and slip on a bit of sexy Edward Sexton suiting. This time it's back to yours...

Photographs Flynet; Getty Images; Splash

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IT'LL FIND YOU

As good as it gets: Jack Nicholson with Anjelica Huston at the Oscars in 1975

BERETS!

TREND TOPPER

(So unsexy they're sexy)

Here's your heads-up on the season's hottest hat – but have you got what it takes to wear one?

By **Tom Stubbs**

Illustration by **Ricardo Fumanal**

Two friends, Christos Tolera and Chris Sullivan, make a beret-check phone call to one another before they go out to DJ together, thus preventing a double-beret, matchy-matchy scenario. These savvy style merchants have been dropping berets since the late Seventies at legendary clubs such as Le Kilt, The Blitz and The Wag. They channel a blend of Latin jazz beatnik and New Romantic hero. And both adore a beret.

"Speaking as a longtime wearer of hats, the only consistently risky titfer is a beret," says Tolera. "They're always somehow incongruous." His striking looks range from circus strong man to Rat Pack Lothario. "I favour a snug sports beret à la bebop jazz and the ubiquitous Basque style."

For 2018, berets are a major trend. Regardless of the fashion, they're a potent and egalitarian instant-access accessory. Get one and you're *in*. Anyone can pick one up, but it takes some front to wear, be it bravado, camp posturing or avant-garde edginess. Check iconic beret men Pablo Picasso, John Lennon, Dave Bowie, Sonny Rollins, John Lydon, Public Enemy, Captain Sensible and pick your vibe. Military wearers don't count – I'm talking misappropriated style – but activists and assassins do, such as Che Guevara and Carlos The Jackal. For reference, turn to The Beret Project (*beretandboina.blogspot.co.uk*).

Beret style can transform an outfit. Combine with charcoal-grey suiting and rollneck and one becomes a suave Situationist thinker. Don with jeans and a chunky knit and you're a rustic turbo-folk connoisseur. For an art-slant, street-style clash, drop a beret with a tracksuit. Jack Nicholson wore his with a tux and shades to the Oscars – double potent black-tie machismo.

Note, however, there's an unavoidable comedic element, especially in the UK, where berets provoke a basic reaction from many. Most pedestrian types opt for the Frank Spencer-referenced jibe. Fractionally more cultured snarks go for a *Citizen Smith* snipe. Despite this, strangers warm to you in a beret. Perhaps it's intrigue or simply pity, but I enjoy the chat. Tolera points to another beret concern, "They're not sexy. Which is sexy, right?"

John Lydon

My obsession got properly triggered by YMC's Autumn/Winter 2017 Traum der Maschine collection last January, styled by Mark Anthony. The look was Paris Left Bank aggro rendered modern through Bauhaus nuance. Models looked chic and militant, clever men who know their way around an urban obstacle course when required.

Berets are also *très* Paris 1968 uprising. They will always be synonymous with France, though the manliest style – with the leather headband and stalk – is a Basque version originally. Lock Hatters of St James get its Basque berets from the Boinas Elósegui factory in Tolosa, Spain. Basque men wear them flat and symmetrical, with the front tweaked forward and narrowed like a peaked cap. Naturally the French do it differently, worn as an extension of their psyche. "The beret goal is to bring out the personality we all have inside," says the Elósegui website. And it's right. Part of the beret's appeal is that you can do what you want, be whomever you choose. Be it an activist's stance or a hyper-camp aristo flex, there is so much to say with a beret.

YMC AW17

Photographs Getty Images; Rex

Ingleborough B
Hiker Boot
in Mahogany Grain Leather

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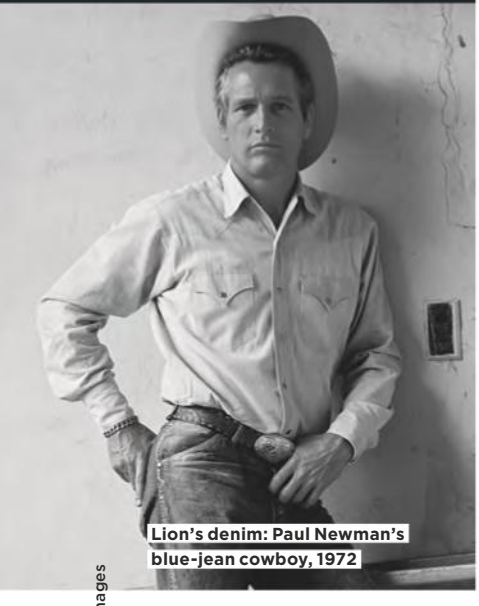
DENIM

A midlife crisis

When it comes to growing old fashionably, it's man vs jeans. Our writer goes in search of his perfect pair

By **Tom Stubbs**



Lion's denim: Paul Newman's blue-jean cowboy, 1972

Photograph Getty Images

SHOP THE BLUES

A photographer idly snapped me working on a model during a fashion shoot. He shared the image. I was styling a willowy young man with an Afro, in vest and loafers with high, wide Oxford bags – effortlessly suave and cool. Next to him, the middle-aged man (me), also in vest and loafers, was straining as he stooped in his pinched, punitive skinny jeans. The contrast was extreme. Granted, I am twice his age, at 47, but the skinny jeans jarred as heinously dated, especially for my years, and their wanton wrongness was savagely laid bare against this vision of up-to-date silhouette savvy.

I'd been unhappy about my denim stance for some time. I saw this and knew instantly skinny was over. I filed for denim divorce. Brands were petitioned. Packages were delivered. But what style next? For a man in his forties, the road to cool denim is treacherous. Too-narrow jeans have lost their cool. Ask the young and fashionable. Every man jack in every coffee shop, bar or bus seat is skinnied-up by default. The law of street-style snobbery dictates the thinking style man must strive for alternatives. Sources in trendy sectors indicate cool men are wearing (so-called) normcore or geek denim.

Of the latter, I've witnessed the young, festooned with tattoos, man-buns and studded high-tops, sporting gawky jean styles. Puzzlingly short and unfinished hems and with no apparent attempt to fit. "Awkward chic" certainly looks "strong" on them. Regardless, thirty-somethings need not apply for this vaunted Vetements-esque look. It's a little challenging, and that goes for the wearer and the viewer.

I fare no better in Craig Green's new denim line, immaculately hewn from dark, raw denim, with giant, otherworldly stitched eyelet pocket and fanny-pack style handle. I dig the aesthetic, but on me they're like futuristic ninja culottes, the mirror showing a Croatian mime artist seeking refuge in the Lidl trolley parking area. (A bad thing.)

Dad-denim is more approachable. Levi's served me previously here. Now, I find their 514 model bang in the middle of bang normal – it's extreme in its ordinariness. I feel like a weary life-insurance executive on a dress-down Friday – ouch. The new 501 raw shrink-to-fit are good. Mine, however, are critically un-shrunk, thus functioning with a fashion-trainer and smarter, more polished shoe options. Try 'em.

Acne's new style, "Land", is a loose fit and a trendy top player. Higher, clean, wide, straight – I get it. The website presents them on a platinum-peroxide boy whose look evokes the first (East German) youths to spill over and sit atop the Berlin Wall in 1989. That is the look, if you're young. Caution, however: at 40-plus this normcore starchiness can slip into witless-antiques-dealer-walks-cocker-spaniels-down-Albemarle-Street territory. My instinct tells me to stay raw and go wider.

Ami's long, wide raw, indigo Japanese selvedge denim jeans are excellent. With cobalt-blue top-stitching and no branding, they are fresh and cool, with pockets cut like chinos. They sit higher and hang well. Plus they work with my Gucci snaffle-bit loafer collection.

Not satiated on a "statement" level, I reach for the E Tautz "Chore" workwear jeans. I find myself in love. Seriously wide jeans in 13.5oz selvedge raw denim, Chore are based on a Fifties workwear trouser and manufactured at Cookson & Clegg in Blackburn. They are substantial. These work splendidly with my braces, too. (Belts with jeans are for squares, I declare.) Sure, there's more than a touch of saw-mill operative afoot, but I can walk that off.

I walk differently in these, you see. Slower, deliberately, with a confident, flowing gait. Gone is the stuttering shuffle of the skinny. Besides, as I approach 50, I feel ready for an impromptu hoedown. I've gone fully wide. A new strut is in town. Skinnies are for chumps. Yee-haw. Here's to my middle-aged, massive denim wide-on. Denim: the new little blue pill.

So long, skinny jeans...

From left: Jeans by **CRAIG GREEN DENIM**, £350. At matchesfashion.com Jeans by **LEVI'S**, £85. levis.com Jeans by **ACNE**, £270. At mrporter.com Jeans by **AMI**, £210. At farfetch.com

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GOLDSMITHS
SINCE 1778

By **Jonathan Heaf**

The matrix of male laziness*

***Or how to stop being so basic**

Nothing is as cool as being one-of-a-kind. In that vein, this month New House Rules is calling out all the clichés of identikit coolness so that you can stop copying everyone else and get your own ideas...

JUMPED THE SHARK

BASIC

STYLE LETHARGY

TRY HARD

Supreme accoutrement
Dude, it's a brick. A Supreme brick but still a brick.

Navy peacoats
Cool like Ikea beds are cool.

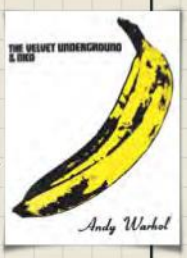
Common Projects pale pink sneakers
Only ever cool on Drake.

Backless loafers
Maximal fashion for those with minimal style.

Subscription razor blade companies
Ironically the antitheses of cutting edge.

Talking about fashion 'drops'
So you like queuing? Join the queue.

Andy Warhol's art
Don't tell us, you love The Velvet Underground too, right?



Art fairs
Name three British artists under 30. Exactly.

"A single macchiato, please"
Oh, you're *soooo* urbane.

Haim
They are *everyone's* favourite cool band.

Boxercise
Sparring? Isn't that something you should be doing at Soho Farmhouse?

Marvis Toothpaste
Real trendies brush with charcoal.

Soul Cycle
Goes to LA once.

Making love to anything by The Weeknd
Gen Y's Barry White.

Sir David Attenborough
The Codfather (as in Classic Old Dude).

Negronis
The laziest order since asking for Ketel One on the rocks.

The £200 watch
Entry-level anything is not trying hard enough.

Robert Harris novels
Advertising that your intellect is stuck in coach.

The shoulder bump
The route one of hipster greetings.

Chelsea boots
Basic. Cool. But still basic.

Supermarket-branded chef meals
Heston For Waitrose will not impress anyone ever.

TED talks
Like carrying around a copy of *Freakonomics* around in your blazer pocket.

Taking the premium economy hand towel pre-flight
You are so moneysupermaket.com.

Puffer gilets over suit jackets
Impossible to get away with unless you're Italian.

Led Zeppelin IV
Stairway to naffness.

Binge-watching TV on release
It's Netflix and chill, remember?

Air ties
An indie boy's idea of "smart/smart".

Audiobooks
TBH, turning a page *is* exhausting.

Ordering salmon teriyaki
The missionary position of ordering Japanese food.

Pocket square
Don Draper is your style icon. *Still*?

Regramming anything
Someone else's personality, rehashed.

Green tea from Teapigs
With a finger bowl full of "woke" on the side.

Rollnecks
The little black dress of menswear.

Photographs Alamy; Getty Images

YES, 'DOODLES' are a thing now!

ARTFUL DRESSING

One man's scribble is another man's fashion statement. So which man are you?

By **Alfred Tong**

Who knew that your six-year-old self was a such trendsetter? Yup, doodles are the new It graphic, a high fashion streetwear thing. Everything from Saint Laurent bombers to Reebok trainers are being used as a canvas for the kind of drawings your BFF might have scrawled on your school uniform on the last day of school. We're not suggesting you wear a shirt with a crudely drawn cartoon phallus on the back – however, given that fashion is now Demna Gvasalia's world and we just shop in it, one can never be entirely sure.

Drawn-on shoes run counter to everything sneaker culture has been about for the past 20 years (ie, box-fresh perfection). But the Reebok Insta Pump Fury, one of the fugliest trainers of all time has been made even fuglier with added doodles by Vetements. It has reached what trainer fanatics call "grail status" and currently costs in excess of £600 on the international sneaker market, which is now about as overvalued as the Dow Jones after a round of quantitative easing. All this for a trainer with "I'm bored" written in what looks like your bratty nephew's biro. Perhaps we can put this one down to "irrational exuberance" on the part of investors (Instagram influencers, sneakerheads). Writing "I am cool" in Sharpie on your Common Projects might be an easier (read: less expensive) way to get the look.

In addition to its Sketch Trench, Burberry got creative with its app, thanks to the digital doodles of British artist Danny Sangra, deploying what he calls "indiscreet forms of consciousness and commentary". In his seminal analysis of wealth and luxury, *The Theory Of The Leisure Class*, Thorstein Veblen considered the wastefulness of expensive clothes as essential to their appeal. How else do you explain paying a premium for perfectly nice trench coats with what looks like a child's drawing on it? Again, breaking out the Crayolas seems like just as valid a way of appropriating rebel cool. Although, you know what, we sort of dig it.

It's not just Burberry. Gucci are offering up bags and T-shirts doodled on by Coco Capitán, while Percival, the killer casualwear label, has a line of T-shirts with a depiction of two hands clasped together in a gun sign and the words "Pew Pew". Not to be outdone, Maison Labiche also lets you put a doodled word of your choice onto its Bretons.

Still, we get it. Fashion, traditionally, has provided art with commercialised fairy dust and patronage and art in turn gives fashion cultural and intellectual credibility. So perhaps wearable art in the form of doodles and sketches is the next step. Of course, we've been here before. Exhibit A: Tracey Emin's limited-edition "art" T-shirt made in 2005. On the front is Emin's instantly identifiable handwriting, "When I Think About Sex", while on the reverse it reads, "I Make Art". And there's nothing remotely fugly about that.

Bag by **GUCCI**, £1,210. gucci.com

Trainers by **REEBOK X VETEMENTS**, £610. At matchesfashion.com

Trench by **BURBERRY**, £1,975. burberry.com

Photograph **Pixeleyes Photography**

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BELOW THE BELT

Why are you still wearing BOXER SHORTS?

Sidestep the baggy bloomers of your youth and listen: ill-fitting underwear is over

By **Jonathan Heaf**

It's a Wednesday morning. Early. Dawn-break early. I've been through my pre-breakfast, pre-children-waking, mid-thirties, half-bothered daily grooming routine: flash shower (three minutes), light face wash with Tom Ford Men Exfoliating Energy Scrub (three minutes), diligent floss (four minutes), once round the gnashers with Marvis Whitening Toothpaste (four minutes 30 seconds) and then a little weep at the futility of it all (25 seconds).

Clunk-clink, I fix in my Lanvin brushed-gold shirt cuffs, comb and side-part the tangled mess that calls itself an £85 haircut and, just like that, I'm ready for a strong black coffee. (Monmouth Espresso Blend Los Naranjos, Japanese drip filtered, since you're asking.) So why do I feel like I am wearing a harness around my waist and crotch?

I'd expected this discomfort. You see, I've been gifted a pair of boxer shorts. You know the sort: wide on the leg, billowy around the groin. In your head you look like the stud in the Levi's laundromat ad, in reality you look like an adolescent looking for his cereal bowl the morning after a lengthy bong "sesh". They are the type that bunch and gather in all the most alarming places. I don't usually wear such things: I'm more of a boxer-briefs type of a man.

Occasionally, I veer into brief-briefs; it depends on how tight the jeans are, which, I have to say, are usually too tight. That's why, I suspect, I am struggling with these grandpa-style boxers. It feels like my jeans have swallowed half my shirt, the excess boxer-short fabric spewing over my waistband like a sad, deflated muffin top. I thought they'd be retro in a swaggering, wet-shave sort of a way. I was wrong.

Snug it out: Lean no longer favours loose boxers; (right) CDLP founders Andreas Palm and Christian Larson with Alicia Vikander

You see, a modern man's go-to silhouette is far leaner than it once was. Sure, there's talk of baggy jeans being all the rage in style circles, but, on the whole, a man's trousers are far more fitted than they used to be. It's true, Uniqlo do a neat range of men's boxer-briefs, although,as is often the case with high-street fashion, the quality is a little temporary – many a pair have ended up round my feet in ribbons.

The fabric spews over like a deflated muffin top

So who to turn to for a comfortable, well-designed, aesthetically pleasing undergarment? If one takes such time to consider one's denim brand or the details of one's shirts, shouldn't one spend a similar amount of time choosing the item of clothing that is arguably their most intimate?

Well, I can recommend CDLP – a Swedish label that is less of an underwear company and more a passion project for the two founders, Andreas Palm and Christian Larson.

It was over a crayfish dinner at Mark's Club recently – alongside the brand's long-standing Swedish friends, actress Alicia Vikander and filmmaker Jonas Akerlund – that CDLP extolled to House Rules the virtues of their signature design: The Boxer Trunk, a short that keeps everything in the right place yet doesn't shrink-wrap one's intimates so that they resemble a roast chicken in a wetsuit.

"We work with premium cotton suppliers for certain garments, but cherish modern, sustainable materials," explain Palm and Larson, two men who, I can attest, take design and material sustainability as seriously as their Swedish drinking games. "For our Boxer Trunk, we use eco-friendly lyocell, a natural fabric of wood pulp; it is the pinnacle of breathability, softness and comfort."

So that settles it: it's high time there was a culling. A "briefs" genocide of the old, the threadbare and the – heaven help you – "humorous" amid your underwear drawer. Be ruthless. Be cold. Be cruel to any sense of sentimentality about those emoji-patterned monstrosities. You'll thank us for it. As will your partner. *cdlp.com*

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Power desk accoutrement bingo!

Can a man's workplace paraphernalia bare his soul? We can't rule it out...

	EXECUTIVE DESK TOY	3-D PRINTED AVATAR	STATIONERY PORN	VENOMOUS PET	SELFIES WITH CELEBRITIES
JOB	Old-school City boys	The savvy media elite and/or an East London barista	Account exec who creates "memes" for ad clients	Overly ambitious politician	Celebrities/ journalists who like the irony of it all
SUCH AS?	Newton's cradle; desk sign that states, "I'll be nicer if you'll be smarter"	Donald Trump figurine; ten-inch mini-me statuette	Mug full of personalised Blackwing pencils	Tarantula called Cronus	[Insert name] with Snoop Dogg; [insert name] with Kylie Jenner
WHAT THIS SAYS ABOUT MY OFFICE SPACE	Predictable and forgettable	"Look at me!"	I might be a serial killer	Harbours notions of being a Bond villain	My social media following is my life
WHAT ELSE IS IN MY OFFICE (PROBABLY)	A (used) baseball bat in one corner	A Fracino Contempo espresso machine	A Dior skateboard (unused; no wheels)	A replica of Francisco Scaramanga's golden gun	A "treadmill desk"
CHANCES OF PROMOTION	Sure...	Perhaps, although no pay rise	He's self-employed already, natch	He thinks he's the boss already	A "paid promotion" on Instagram

THREE WAYS TO WEAR... A PUFFER GILET SLIP IT ON AS A TOASTY UNDERLAYER, GO BOLD AND BRIGHT OR ENJOY A BIT OF ARMLESS FUN IN SUB-ZERO SURROUNDS

MAYFAIR, ITALY

It's rumoured to have been sharp Italian businessmen, in a rush, that started throwing a puffer gilet under a suit jacket. The wind chill from zippy scooter rides around Milan or Florence can be harsh and what better way to keep warm – and retain a sharp, tailored silhouette – than to add a little structured down between shirt/tie and your cashmere-blend jacket? Astute City guys and stylish Mayfair hounds have been quick on the uptake.

LEISURE KING

What differentiates a man in luxury athleisurewear from a man just wearing a tracksuit to the office is confidence and tonal harmony. Rather than mismatching the colourway of your puffer gilet the way a cold market trader might, pair it with a detail that pops from the rest of your outfit. Bright, bold colours work best for this. You're going to be noticed, sure, but then isn't that the whole point? Wallflowers need not apply.

SUBURBAN FLEX

It's -3C outside. But you're British so, frankly, for you, this is close to "skins" weather. You're at the pub and you want to smoke continually. No chance you're going to be getting in and out of endless layers every ten minutes – jumper, scarf, topcoat, no thanks. This is where the puffer gilet excels. Who cares if your arms have gone blue and your pint has frozen over? The PG means winter to you is what King Arthur was to Monty Python's Black Knight. "Frostbite? 'Tis but a scratch!" GQ

Illustrations by **Bill Hope**

BAROMETER

UP

Women

Mindhunter series two
It's coming for you. With duct tape.

Bull shots
Consommé and vodka; this season's only hair of the dog.

Kimono-style jackets
We'll all be turning Japanese come March.

Indoor bouldering
Rock climbing for hipsters scared of the rain (*thestrongholduk.com*).

Queerbible.com
Jack Guinness' new project; a vital history lesson on the icons of the LGBTI movement.

Swims galoshes
Duck boots for stylish City gents.

Kenya's gay lions
Simba's pride.

Statement jumpers
You know that's just "fashion" for "fancy Christmas jumper", right?

'Snockers'
Sock sneakers. File alongside the snood.

Indicted ex-Trump aide Paul Manafort's clothing bill
$1.4 million to look like an extra from *Dynasty*?

Running tights under running shorts
A ubiquitous yet needless gym trend.

The new Doctor's new look
Intergalactic braces? Paging, Mork and Mindy.

280 characters
Twitter goes long form. Yawn.

Espresso martinis
Responsible for more break-ups than ashleymadison.com.

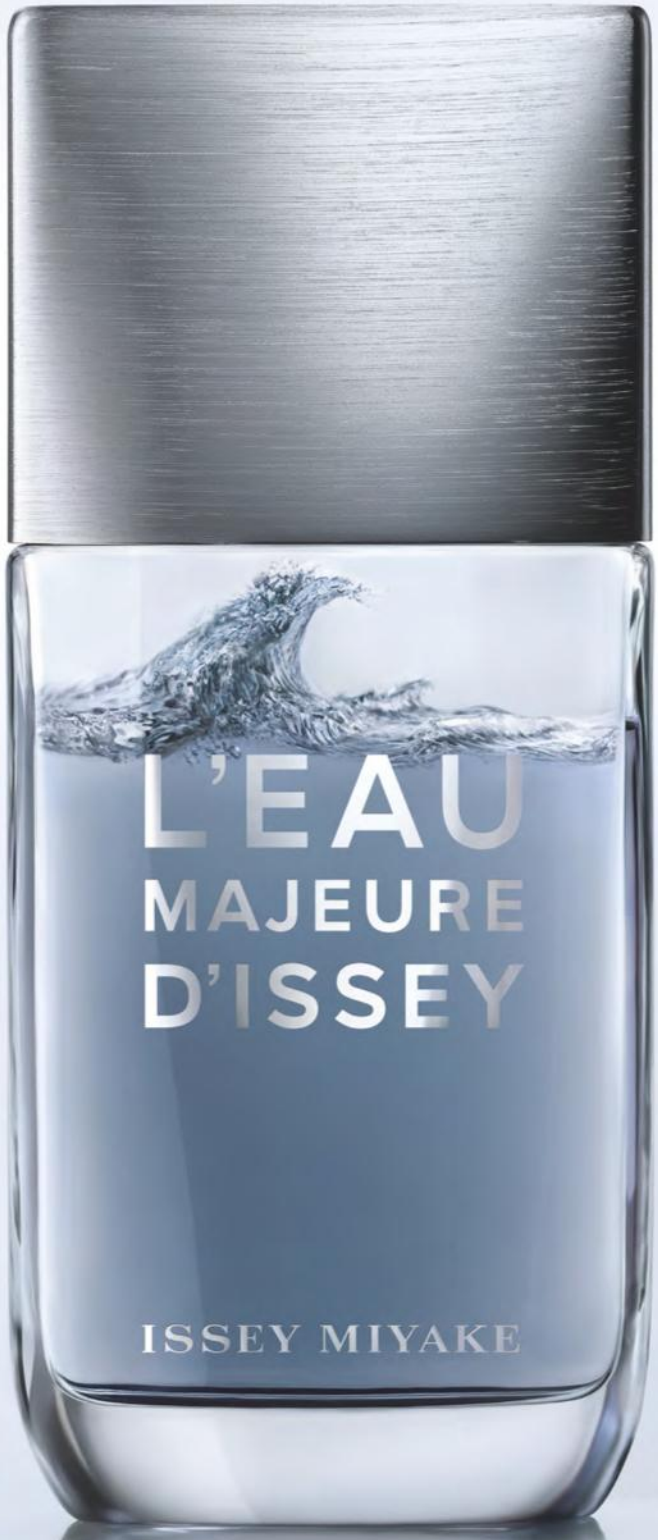
Men

DOWN

Photographs **Alamy; Getty Images; Instagram/@snoopdogg**

ISSEY MIYAKE

THE NEW FRAGRANCE FOR MEN



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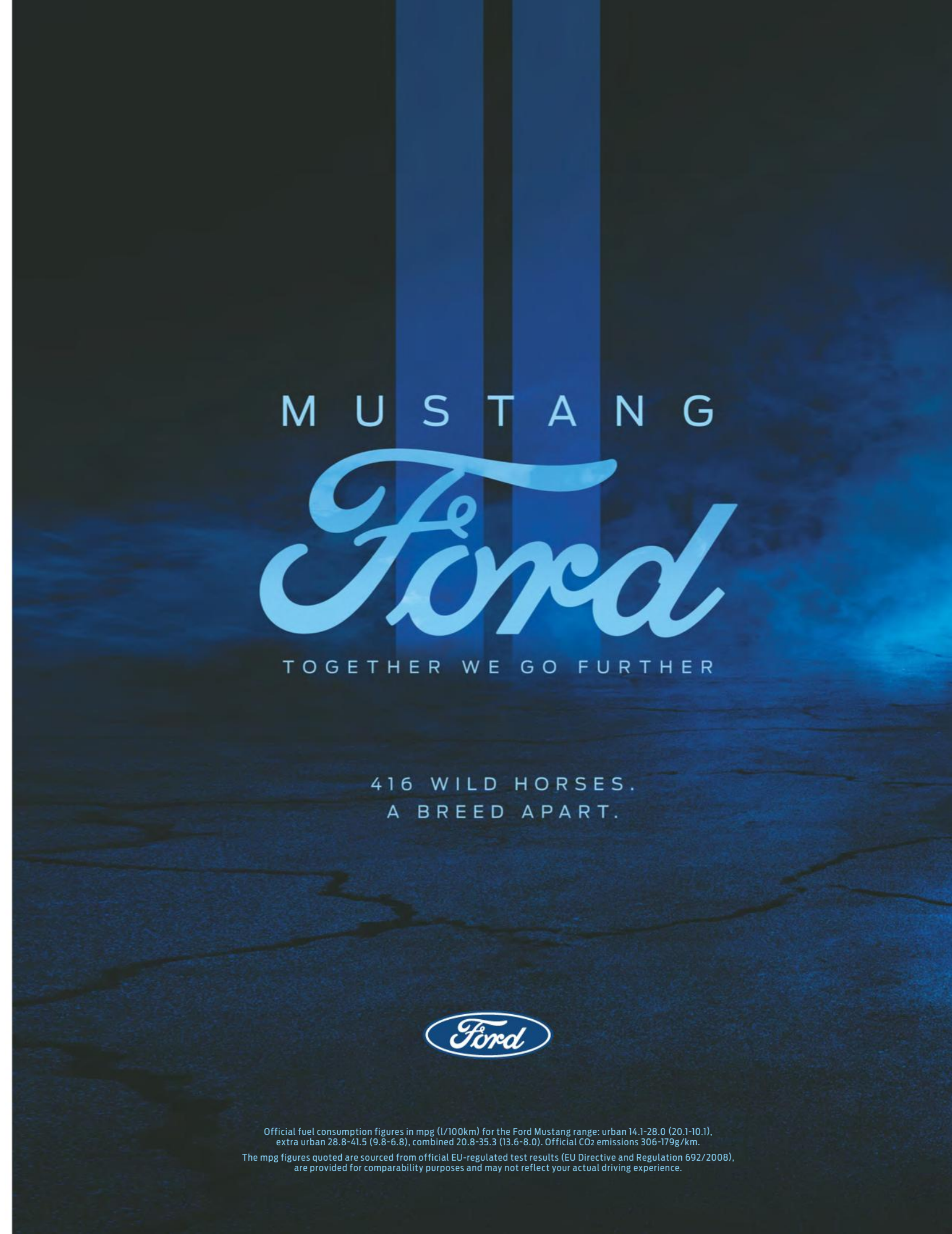


Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford Mustang range: urban 14.1-28.0 (20.1-10.1), extra urban 28.8-41.5 (9.8-6.8), combined 20.8-35.3 (13.6-8.0). Official CO_2 emissions 306-179g/km.

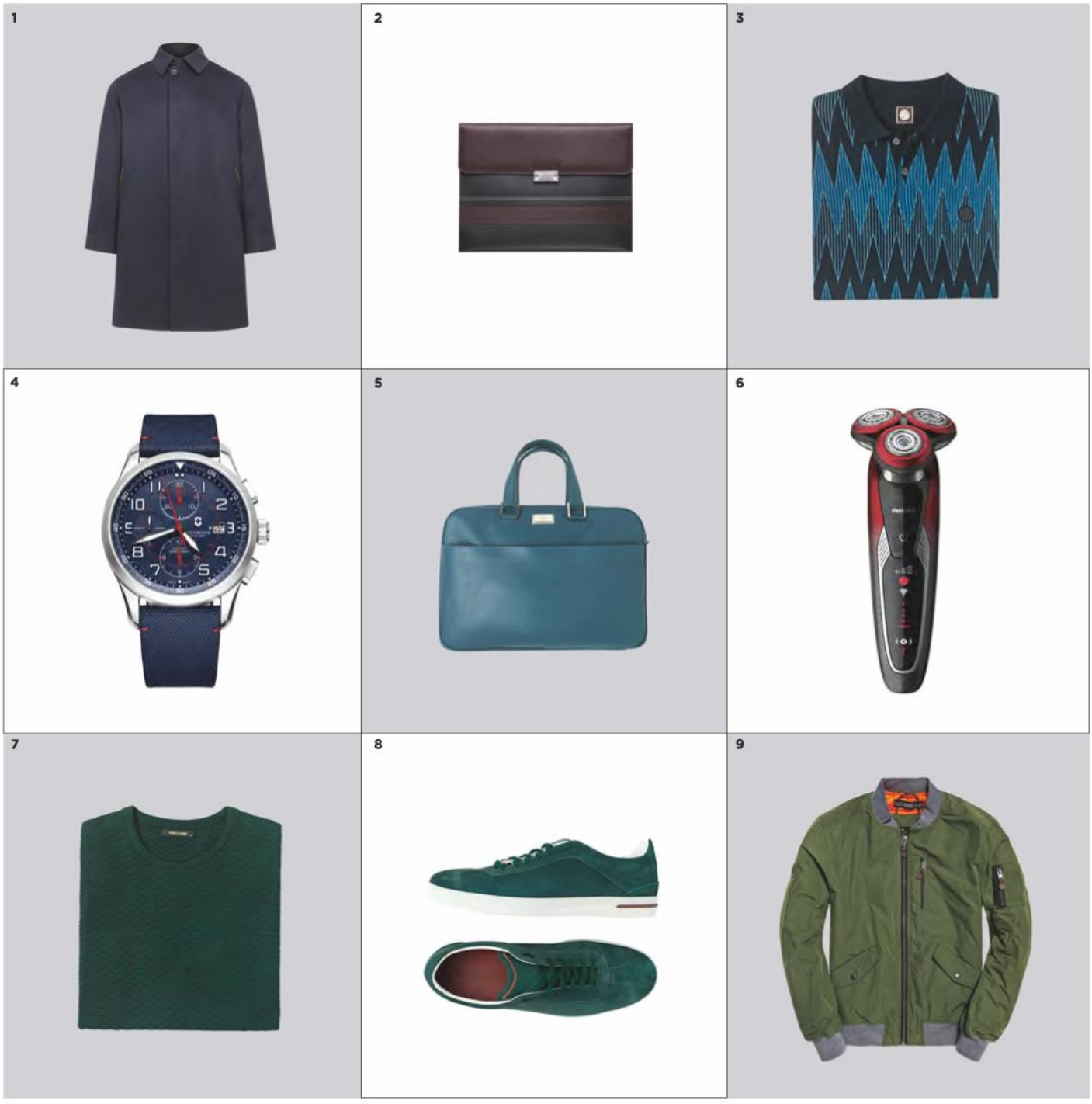
The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

MUSTANG

The GQ Preview: January

EDITED BY **HOLLY ROBERTS**

Bringing you the very latest in fashion, grooming, watches, news and exclusive events



1 ▸ Coat by **William & Son**, £2,050. williamandson.com **2** ▸ Laptop case by **Pal Zileri**, £755. palzileri.com
3 ▸ Polo shirt by **Pretty Green**, £45. prettygreen.com **4** ▸ Watch by **Victorinox**, £835. victorinox.com **5** ▸ Briefcase by **Corneliani**, £985. corneliani.com
6 ▸ Star Wars edition shaver by **Philips**, £330. philips.co.uk **7** ▸ Jumper by **Remus Uomo**, £65. remusuomo.com
8 ▸ Trainers by **Loro Piana**, £600. loropiana.com **9** ▸ Bomber jacket by **Superdry**, £100. superdry.com

Junior Retail Editor **Michiel Steur**

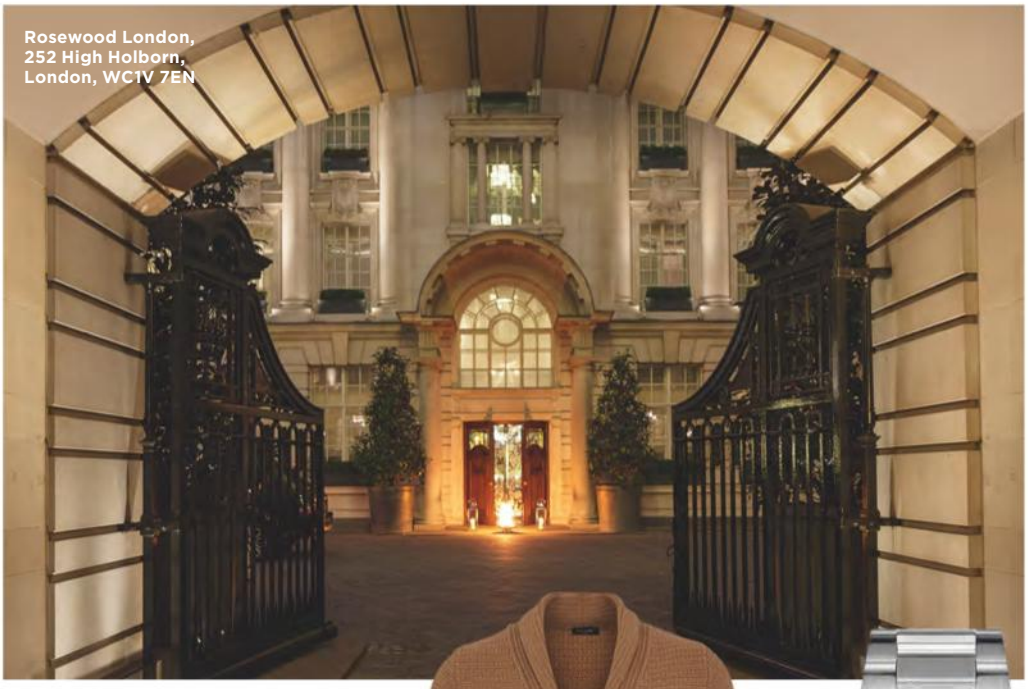
We love

Dieter Weekender by MCM

Whether you're heading for a weekend away or simply for a weekday workout, being on the move calls for a practical and stylish solution. Introducing the newest additions to new school luxury brand MCM's Dieter collection. Cut from lightweight, waterproof and hard-wearing nylon, this tried and tested travel collection comprises both holdalls and rucksacks for hands-free practicality. So if you're looking to invest in a classic or make a seasonal statement, with the brand's iconic monogrammed design the Dieter collection definitely delivers with style. What are you waiting for? Get moving.

Dieter weekender nylon collection by **MCM**, from £695. mcmworldwide.com

Photograph **Roger Stillman**



Rosewood London,
252 High Holborn,
London, WC1V 7EN

Jacket by **Parajumpers**, £1,080.
parajumpers.it

Cardigan by **Sand**,
£229. sandcopenhagen.com

Jeans by **AG Jeans**,
£319. agjeans.com

Shoes by **Church's**, £550.
church-footwear.com

Watch by **TAG Heuer Carrera**
UK exclusive, £3,700.
At beaverbrooks.co.uk

Tobacco Absolute Eau de
Toilette by **Molton Brown**, £39.
moltonbrown.co.uk

How to

Dress for a winter night in the city

Nestled in the heart of Holborn, and a stone's throw from some of the capitals hottest attractions, the Rosewood London really is a gem worth discovering. The Grade II-listed Edwardian building spreads over 252 High Holborn and seamlessly blends both opulent style and substance, resulting in a perfectly crafted nest of luxury. Looking for a new watering hole? This winter, Rosewood London and artisanal gin brand Monkey 47 will transform its iconic courtyard into an enchanting German winter forest. Expect a cosy setting and rustic decor, with a menu of winter warmers to boot. What to wear? Your luxe winter essentials. Start with this limited-edition Carson jacket from Italian brand Parajumpers, team with dark wash AG jeans and top with your favourite chunky knit, for a look as sumptuous as your surroundings. *The Monkey 47 Lodge will be open from November through to January. Rosewood London, 252 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7EN, 020 7781 8888*

Retail Editor **Holly Roberts**

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OVERFINCH

‘There are many strands of Aston Martin’s design history. We want to explore them all’

Flying colours

Aston Martin has a lot riding on its new Vantage. Aggressive, sophisticated and cloaked in the boldest shades on the road, it’s a brave evolution of the brand’s bestselling car. Think things are always greener on the other side? Not from this driving seat...

STORY BY **Jason Barlow** PHOTOGRAPHS BY **Wilson Hennessy**

GQ Cars

EDITED BY **PAUL HENDERSON**

DISCOVERY

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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Discovery range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 19.9-36.2 (14.2-7.8); Extra Urban 30.4-48.7 (9.3-5.8); Combined 26.0-43.5 (10.9-6.5). CO_2 Emissions 254-171 g/km. Official EU Test Figures. For comparison purposes only. Real world figures may differ. Drive responsibly on and off road. Terrain Response 2 available on selected models only.

Incredibly, plenty of people don't know anything about cars and care even less. When pressed, however, they'll offer some vacuous observation about the colour. As if whatever hue a car is painted actually defines it. Then you see a car like Aston Martin's new Vantage, photographed exclusively for *GQ* and presented here in *Lime Essence*. And this actually matters, because this is Aston Martin getting very punchy with the replacement for the bestselling car in its history, the one that needs to hit pay dirt straight out of the box.

"It is deliberate," says Aston's chief designer Miles Nurnberger. "We came up with a colour for the previous Vantage race car called Stirling Green. It was for inserts, then we thought, 'Let's do the whole thing.' We're seeing interest in a wider spread of colours in our global markets. The new Vantage on display in our Gaydon HQ is bright red. We're pushing things forward."

Something similar is going on at Ferrari, whose cars also transcend mere transport to become art. But no piece of art I'm aware of has to stick to the ground at 200mph or protect its owners if all goes wrong. In other words, Aston Martin, like Ferrari, has to perform an aesthetic conjuring trick that reconciles the demands of physics, and legislation governing pedestrian safety, with the need for beauty. What good is an ugly Aston Martin?

Now have another look at the nose on the new Vantage, and the way the sheet metal plunges downward. There are contours and radii on the front wings and bonnet that have to trigger the right responses, while doing a functional job. Aston is good at curves, but a sports car also needs tension, volumes and stance to stop the whole thing from collapsing. That can lead to a profusion of lines and a car that looks too busy is a car that isn't working. Right now, reductionism is very fashionable in car design.

The Vantage challenges some norms; there's a lot of aero – particularly on the rear end – and Nurnberger's team has gone minimal with the head and tail-lights. It is a complicated car striving for simplicity, and that's the hardest trick of all.

"We know people criticise," Nurnberger says candidly. "But I'd be more upset if people said we hadn't moved on enough. Just a few years ago, Marek [Reichman, CCO] and I decided

that we needed to reimagine what Aston Martin stands for. The new Vantage is sportier, more aggressive, and we've lost the veined metal grille. This'll upset some people, no doubt. Aston got very good recently at taking one strand of its design and really refining it. But there were many more strands in the past and we want to explore them all again."

The DB11, the Vantage's big brother, is the GT car, the gentleman in coat-tails. The new car, Nurnberger says, is the hunter, a car with the scent of blood in its nostrils. "There's an urgency built into it, we wanted it to look like its character. And it consciously moves the Aston story on. Our design was very progressive in the past. It will be again."

The new Vantage is another car whose dash-to-axle ratio has been improved; it's only 10mm longer than the old car, but the front wheels are 65mm further forward, and the rears 20mm further back. So it looks meaner *and* more sophisticated. Inside, the Vantage revels in its switchgear and is better packaged and more cosseting.

One of the most prominent buttons turns off the traction control. Chief chassis guru Matt Becker says the shorter platform gives it more honest responses, underlining its sportier nature. It's also the first Aston to get an electronic differential, so while its front end "feels like it'll never give up", and benefits from the incisiveness of torque vectoring, the stability at its near-200mph top speed is just as resolute.

To be clear, whatever colour you go for, the Vantage should be the most accessibly driver-centric Aston Martin ever. Aston's deal with Mercedes yields one of the world's best engines in its 4.0-litre, twin-turbo V8, which makes 503bhp here. It's also destined to succeed the old car as one of the most successful customer racing cars in endurance motorsport history. Look out for the Lime Essence at Le Mans and beyond.

NEED TO KNOW

Specification Aston Martin Vantage

Engine 503bhp, 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8

Torque 505lb ft

Performance 0-62mph, 3.7 seconds; top speed, 195mph

Weight 1,530kg

Price Around £115,000

Contact astonmartin.com

It's a complicated car striving for simplicity – the hardest trick of all

Vantage points: Inside, the car is better packaged than previous Astons

Book

Roads scholars

Whether visionary genius or valiant failure, these designers were all ahead of their time

Can you feel nostalgia for a past that never was? In *Fast Forward*, a new book about some of the wildest car concepts in history, the point is made pretty forcefully. Unlike fashionistas or architects, car designers rarely make the grade as household names, yet the likes of Giorgetto Giugiaro, Marcello Gandini, Franco Scaglione, Harley J Earl and, more recently, Chris Bangle have channelled the culture they found themselves working in to shape our cities every bit as profoundly as their equivalents in higher-profile spheres. *Fast Forward* takes us through the art deco-influenced flamboyance of the Thirties, the aviation obsessions of the Fifties, the unparalleled elegance of form that characterises the Sixties – particularly in Italy – and into the geometric, neo-psychedelic era of the early Seventies. Marvel at Heinz heir Rusty Heinz's Phantom Corsair, Buckminster Fuller's ever-startling Dymaxion, the Harley J Earl-designed Firebird XP-21 (and later III) and the utterly intergalactic madness of Paolo Martin's Ferrari-based Pininfarina Modulo – a mere 47 years old, and yet still like nothing you've ever seen before. Or ever will again. **JB**

Fast Forward: The Cars Of The Future, The Future Of Cars edited by Robert Klanten, Maximilian Funk and Jan Karl Baedeker (Gestalten, £45) is out now.

1933: Buckminster Fuller's Dymaxion

A portmanteau of the words "dynamic, maximum and tension", the three-wheeled, eleven-seater Dymaxion was light years in front of the competition, built for speed, efficiency and, Fuller hoped, flight. It never took off.

2016: United Nude's Lo Res Car

Dutch fashion brand United Nude took the angular shape of the Lamborghini Countach to its logical conclusion for its experimental Lo Res Car, crafted from transparent polycarbonate so the driver can see in all directions.

2016: JRuiter's Consumer

JRuiter's stripped-down Consumer is ecofriendly and street-legal. There are no gauges or badges and the grill is a mirror.

1999: Marc Newson's Ford 021C

With swivelling front seats and a glowing ceiling, this toy-like Ford was created for younger buyers. "021C" is Newson's favourite Pantone colour code. No prizes for guessing which that is.

1976: DeLorean DMC-12

Known for its gull-wing doors and starring role in a certain 1985 movie, the DeLorean was less impressive inside than out. The puny 130hp Renault V6 engine was a major disappointment, and the company quickly crashed and burned.

1954: Franco Scaglione's Alfa Romeo BAT 7

All drama and poise, this aerodynamic marvel was designed with dramatic rear wings and a small dorsal fin down the spine of the vehicle that helped to push and pull air flow across its curves. It could reach speeds of up to 124mph. **GQ**

Photographs Peter Harholdt; Marc Newson Ltd/Tommaso Sartori; J Ruiter; Amy Shore; United Nude; Nigel Young/Foster+Partners

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Gripping stuff

The brains behind GQ Drive Time test two of the year's most remarkable cars on two of Britain's most demanding roads

STORY BY **Jason Barlow**

Our annual car awards are super-sizing. *GQ* has teamed up with the world's most celebrated tyre manufacturer, Michelin, to turn the highly coveted four-wheeled awards into an unmissable live event. We'll reveal the identity of the world's best cars at an exclusive party in London. Innovation, engineering, entertainment, style and design: we're honouring all of those and lots more that, quite frankly, we're not prepared to tell you about until the evening in question.

Until then, we kindly invite you to visit GQ.co.uk where *GQ*'s Contributing Editor and resident automotive expert Jason Barlow has joined forces with Formula E pit-lane reporter and ardent petrol-head Nicki Shields (*above*) to bring you *GQ* Drive Time, in association with Michelin. In case you're wondering

exactly how we take an entire year's worth of new cars and whittled it down to the final winners, well this will shine some light on the magic.

In a series of special films, we've taken four awards contenders to four of the most spectacular and spectacularly challenging roads in the UK.

First up, Nicki went head-to-head with the fearsome Mercedes-AMG E63 S across the Bealach na Bà road in the

TYRE TECH

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4S's hybrid of aramid and nylon means optimum transmission between steering and the road.

THE ROUTE

Bealach na Bà is a single road that winds through the Applecross peninsula to 626 metres.

west Scottish Highlands. Bealach Na Bà may not be the highest road in Scotland, but the winding singletrack is certainly one of the most challenging as it hairpins from sea level to the mountains and back

again. And the tech in the MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4S complements the thrill of the ride, responding instantly to every rise, dip, twist and turn.

It's been a great year for Mercedes-AMG in motor sport. On the road, Mercedes-AMG was no less impressive. In 2018, it treated us to the wild GTR, and the slightly-less-wild but still plenty rapid and extremely pretty GT roadster, either of which *GQ* would be perfectly happy to park in its dream garage. But the reason why we elected to take the £88k E63 S to Scotland is because this particular model speaks softly but carries a big stick…

That's a massive amount of power and energy, even if the E63 now sends it through all four wheels. A multi-plate clutch and electronic differential constantly varies the amount of torque going to the front and rear axles, according to speed, slip angle, and steering input. As Nicki found out, it's huge fun but you need to respect it *and* have some serious self-discipline.

On the other hand, the E63 S will just cruise along, leaving you to enjoy a state-of-the-art experience: there are two 12.3in screens inside, the main instrument display can be endlessly reconfigured, the graphics are incredibly well-resolved, the sound system's awesome, the seats are fantastic.

Porsche's £137k Panamera Turbo S e-hybrid is just as fast but, as Jason (*above*) discovered when he drove one across the Peak District's notorious Snake Pass, it goes about it in a different way. Few cars in 2018 make a bolder technological statement than this Porsche, which takes the Panamera's 542bhp, 4.0-litre twin turbo petrol engine and combines it with a 14kWh lithium ion battery, a 134bhp electric motor, and a load of clever high voltage power electronics to create a car that delivers a total, when it's all in harness, of 671bhp and enough torque to flatten a forest. That brutish standing start potential was realised with the MICHELIN Pilot Sport delivering power in spades. These high performance tyres provide exceptional grip and braking in the wettest of driving conditions – as we experienced on Snake Pass.

That's hugely impressive. And so is being able to travel a claimed 32 miles in zero emissions electric mode, or deliver a claimed 97mpg, and a low enough CO_2 emissions figure to exempt you from London's congestion charge. Yes, it's expensive, but this sounds like the answer to our prayers. Question is, does it work in the real world? Jason has the answer, at *GQ* Drive Time. Want to see these two beauties in action? Visit GQ.co.uk to watch our exclusive films.

'Having driven pretty much every car worth driving, it's always a Michelin-shod car that puts the biggest smile on my face'

Jason Barlow

TYRE TECH

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 tread pattern is adapted from motorsport and reacts to demands of the road surface.

THE ROUTE

Engineered by Thomas Telford, Snake Pass is in the Derbyshire section of the Peak District.

In association with

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GQ Car Awards

GQ Car Awards enters its 9th year and for 2018 we are proud to have Michelin as our headline partner. We will announce the winners in the March issue on sale 8 February. Keep an eye out for GQ Car Awards content on; *www.gq.co.uk*

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(And this year it's all about the cars... not the cup-holders)

Frozen in time

EDITED BY **BILL PRINCE** PHOTOGRAPH BY **OMER KNAZ**

Montblanc celebrates two decades of the Star Legacy with an ageless collection of ice-cool chronographs

Since Davide Cerrato arrived as director of Montblanc's watch division in 2015, a clear direction has been established. Building on his work at Tudor, he's introduced a sportier line of watches deriving from the heyday of classic chronographs and harnessed the inestimable talents of Hugh Jackman to promote them. But if his decision to enter the field of automotive-inspired timekeepers reflects the growing regard for its mid-century classics, the reanimated Star line, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, affords the brand the chance to show off a more traditional approach, enshrined in the Minerva business it acquired in the mid-noughties. Minerva was acclaimed for its highly accurate pocket watches and in particular its chronographs, capable of measuring to one hundredth of a second as early as 1916. It's these codes that the new Star Legacy Automatic Chronograph celebrates: details include the "easy grip", onion-shaped crown, blue leaf-shaped hands, bold Arabic numerals and elegant stainless-steel 42mm step-sided case. Drawing on another pillar of Montblanc's business, the alligator "Sfumato" strap is made at its own Florentine *palleteria* and can be ordered in blue or grey to match the choice between silvery white- and slate-coloured dials. **BP GQ**

£3,935. montblanc.com

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Pie de résistance: Calum Franklin's showstopping pâté en croûte is stuffed with traditional English favourites

The Recipe

Join the upper crust

Whichever way you slice it, this full-to-bursting festive pie is a cut above the standard seasonal fare. Make it your Christmas No1

EDITED BY **BILL PRINCE & PAUL HENDERSON**

Photograph **Jonathan Kennedy**

The Chef

Calum Franklin

A pioneer of the burgeoning pastry-naissance, Holborn Dining Room's obsessive executive chef has a finger in every pie

On his social media accounts Calum Franklin calls himself a "pastry deviant". It is not the most flattering description of the executive chef at Holborn Dining Room, but it makes perfect sense once you've seen his incredible collection of beautifully baked shortcrust creations. Quite simply, @ChefCalum is the biggest pie-porn star in England.

"It happened by accident," he says. "I discovered a room in the basement full of *pâté en croûte* moulds. I learned how to use them, then I became obsessed. We now make 150 pies a day and have inadvertently hit on a trend."

Thanks to this pastry-naissance, Franklin and his team now run pastry workshops, have created a Victorian-style "pie room" and next year will open a serving hatch selling pies as the ultimate British street food.

And what could be more British than a Sunday roast in a pie? Or in this case, a Christmas dinner. "The *GQ* pie looks like a traditional *pâté en croûte*, but when you taste it you get the flavours of the English festive season," says Franklin.

The pie will be on the Holborn Dining Room menu this month, but if you fancy trying it yourself, consider this recipe an early Christmas present. **PH**

● **Holborn Dining Room, 252 High Holborn, London WC1. 020 3747 8633. holborndining room.com**

The Recipe

The GQ Christmas pie

Impress your guests with this indulgent Yuletide offering

Ingredients

(Use a 24cm x 10cm loaf tin, greased with butter)

For the filling:

2 large peeled carrots

200g sausage meat

½ bunch sage, chopped

2 onions, finely diced and soft cooked

30g panko breadcrumbs

350g gammon in 2cm dice

350g turkey breast in 2cm dice

15g table salt

1 bunch parsley, chopped

100g turkey thigh

100g pork fat

For the jelly:

6 sheets bronze gelatine

500ml turkey gravy

For the pie:

1kg shortcrust pastry

Method

Gently simmer the whole carrots until just cooked, allow to chill and then cut into strips lengthways.

Mix the sausage meat, sage, onions and breadcrumbs well to form the stuffing mix. Add the stuffing to the other filling ingredients (gammon, turkey breast, salt and parsley). Mix well.

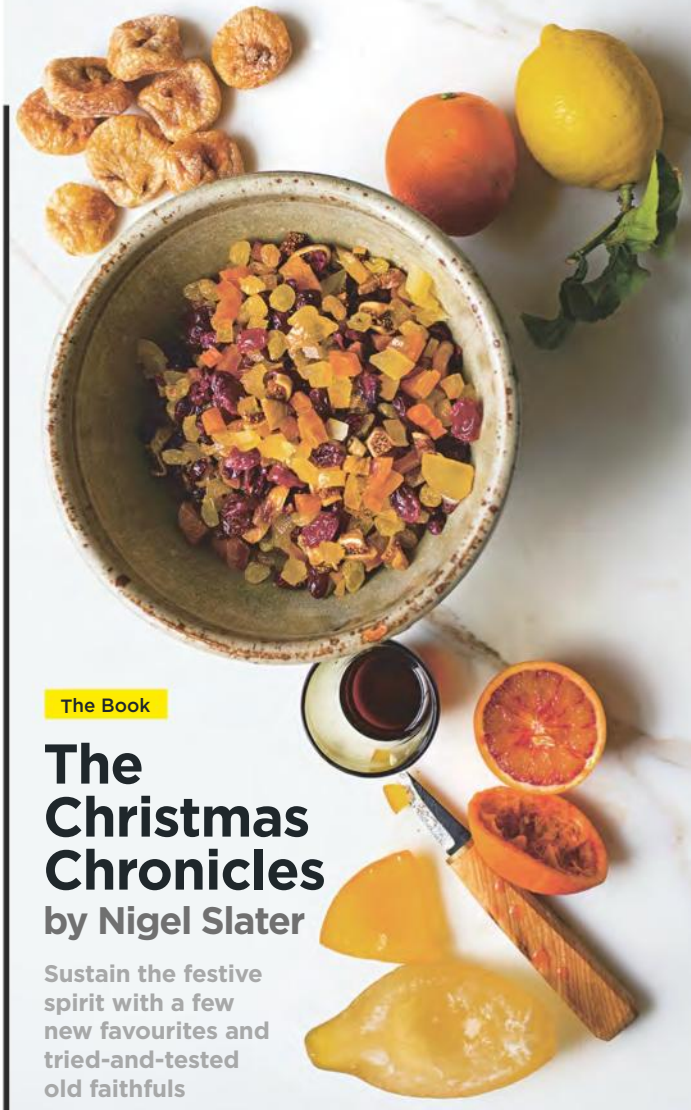
Put the turkey thigh and pork fat through the mincer on a large grinding plate, then combine with all the other ingredients (except the carrots) in a mixing bowl.

To make the jelly, soak gelatine in cold water for five minutes. Meanwhile, warm the turkey gravy in a pan. When it has heated up, remove the gelatine from the water, squeeze off the excess and melt into the gravy until dissolved. Remove from the heat and store in the fridge.

Roll the pastry out to 1cm thickness – you should have a 60cm x 40cm rectangle. Cut a lid by removing a 15cm strip and set aside, the remainder is for lining the loaf tin.

Line the loaf tin with pastry and chill for 20 minutes. When ready, add filling, layering in carrot strips as you fill, then lay over the lid and seal edges (but make a small hole in the centre so the steam to escape). Cook at 180C until the internal temperature reaches 60C (use a meat thermometer). Remove the pie from the oven, allow to rest and chill overnight.

Next day, add the jelly by pouring it into the hole in the lid. When it has set, it is ready to serve, with your usual Christmas trimmings.



The Book

The Christmas Chronicles

by Nigel Slater

Sustain the festive spirit with a few new favourites and tried-and-tested old faithfuls

From Christmas cards (portrait ones remain upright longer than landscape) to crumbs (the birds deserve better – sunflower seeds, say), the high priest of homely hospitality offers up some sage advice on Christmas, and with only five pages dedicated to festive-flavoured spirits it's imagined here as a somewhat sombre occasion oscillating between gentle bonhomie and genuine sentimentality. The party season's Anglo-Saxon traditions are fruitfully mined, with plenty of new-school suggestions, not least in his forensic analysis of fragranced candles (Slater's favourite: Carmelite by Cire Trudon). Of course, there are recipes galore, but in Slater's old-world view, the mark of a memorable bleak midwinter is measured in our muted meditations rather than a raucous chorale of orgiastic eating. For those that disagree, there's always *Mrs Brown's Boys*. **BP**

● **The Christmas Chronicles by Nigel Slater (4th Estate, £26) is out now.**

The Pub

Mr P's Curious Tavern, York

Looking for a foodie fairytale in old York? Settle in at this hearty hideaway

York is a city very happy with itself and with a lot to be happy about. In the streets around the Minster, the king of English cathedrals, there are increasing numbers of fine pubs and restaurants catering to the crowds of fat-walleted tourists. If you feel the need to escape the legion of acoustic guitar strummers (and believe us, you will), then Mr P's Curious Tavern is the perfect hideaway, serving a fantastic range of drinks and top-notch small plates from around the world.

Well, they say small plates. Andrew Pern's food has a finesse that goes beyond simple gastropub fare, but his idea of small is very different to the average tapas restaurant. *GQ* went head first into a generous bowl of smoked partridge macaroni that perfectly blended the rich smokiness of the game with salty blue cheese and sweet chestnuts. That was followed by suckling pig in a Yorkshire pudding, freshened with apple and onion chutney and a pork and sage stuffing patty. The red mullet with potted shrimp was cooked perfectly and *GQ* finished feeling we had "just" avoided the real and present danger of over-ordering.

Mr P's also specialises in sherry, and the staff are happy to pair your food with something crisp, sweet or surprising. You can either watch York throng outside or retreat to a snug in an atmosphere that's warm and cosseting, with food to match. **George Chesterton**

● 71 Low Petergate, York YO1 7HY. 01904 521177. mrpscurioustavern.co.uk

The Bottle

Less mistletoe, more wine

Uncork these crackers come carving time

What does a festive white wine need? Flavour, richness and enough interest to provide emergency conversation should any familial tension come to a head over the turkey. Enter the 2015 Camin Larredya "La Part Davant" Jurançon Sec – a great match for a full turkey dinner, with honeyed, ripe fruit, great intensity and excellent length. If you find yourself waxing lyrical on the Pyrenean climate providing excellent conditions for the organically grown grapes, then it's time to open the presents.

But Christmas doesn't always mean turkey: if there's beef on the table then you need a red with enough character to stand up to the meat. Barolo is a great choice as it will further open up in the glass as it sits, if it lasts that long. The 2012 Giovanni Rosso Barolo Serralunga d'Alba is brooding but very drinkable; its deep fruit is calling out for a rare chateaubriand or rib of beef. Buy a couple of bottles – you'll need some with a late-night sandwich crammed full of thinly carved leftovers. Amy Matthews

● 2015 Camin Larredya 'La Part Davant' Jurançon Sec, £19.90. At The Sampler. thesampler.co.uk. 2012 Giovanni Rosso Barolo Serralunga d'Alba, £31.95. At Uncorked. uncorked.co.uk

Photographs Pixeleyes Photography

Small bites

GQ Where we have been eating this month...

Hoppers St Christopher's Place

Happily, the sister site of Karam Sethi's acclaimed Sri Lankan-inspired restaurant takes reservations.

Standout dish:
Jaffna lamb chops, cucumber and mooli sambol.

77 Wigmore Street, London W1. 020 3319 8110. hopperslondon.com

Ichibuns

Expect Tokyo rock'n'roll-inspired interiors and extraordinary Japanese-style luxe fast food.

Standout dish:
The Hokkaido burger has two Wagyu patties, shiitakes and other delights.

22 Wardour Street, London W1. 020 3937 5888. ichibuns.com

Westerns Laundry

Exquisite, unpretentious tapas-style dishes served in a communal space that's as romantic as it is cosy.

Standout dish:
A hot, fragrant bowl of clams with chilli, garlic and parsley. PH

34 Drayton Park, London N5. 020 7700 3700. westernslaundry.com

The Restaurant

Panoramic 34, Liverpool

Catch a breath of fresh air above the city

The naming of Panoramic 34 is no idle boast. Liverpool's best restaurant is also its highest, nestling – almost hiding – curiously between two storeys of residential apartments on the 34th floor of the West Tower in the city centre. On arrival, a concierge asks if you are visiting the restaurant or a flat – diners share the lift with weary residents carrying their weekly shopping as they fly towards the upper levels. Once inside, the dark wood panelling and louche leather give a tang of late Seventies glamour to the place, as if Bryan Ferry was about to drop by for a cocktail. If he did, the Bugsy Malone with vodka, Amaretto, berry syrup and apple juice would be worth a try (apparently the locals all drink Porn Star Martinis).

The view from the 34th floor is an inadvertent advert for Liverpool and from the lounge you can see the complete set: the dark winding Mersey lit up below by a fairground, the Liver Building, both cathedrals and both football stadiums. But the scenery is no gimmick to take your mind of the food, which is classical but bold. *GQ* enjoyed langoustine paired with smoked enoki mushrooms, lardo and lobster bisque, which produced an intense umami sensation. That was followed by aged beef loin on melting braised beef cheek with root vegetables and beer sauce. The strawberry sherbert meringue with lime curd was a breezy way to complete the evening.

Other highlights include a great set of bar food snacks and a majestic afternoon tea, popular with Liverpool's legions of music and sporting tourists. Even with *GQ*'s vertigo-induced wobbly legs, it's hard not to be swept up in this spectacular but pleasingly quirky setting – thankfully the dining aims high too. **GC**

● **34th Floor, West Tower, Brook Street, Liverpool L3 9PJ. panoramic34.com**

The Club

Omeara

Another hit from Mumford & Sons

We're calling it: Omeara, the 830 sq metre space housed between two Victorian railway arches in London Bridge, opened by Mumford & Sons' Ben Lovett last October, is the best new music venue to come out of London in a decade. OK, it took a year to get going (ever heard of promo, Ben?), but better to slow burn than burn out.

Make your case: Omeara is a one-stop shop. From art and comedy to tequila and disco, you can spend a good eleven hours in this 350-capacity, exposed-brick fortress in the middle of Flat Iron Square.

Eleven hours?! Night owls, sigh no more (see what we did there?) because Omeara opens at 5pm and closes at 4am. In the cavernous event space (decorated like a Victorian theatre), exhibitions, talks, comedy and indie gigs start at 7pm; club nights, which cater to lovers of soul, disco and electronic, kick off at 1am. The D&B Audiotechnik sound system is so powerful that sound travels across all three of Omeara's arches, spanning both bar and club.

Wait... Did someone say tequila? At Omeara's Mexican-themed bar, Cantina (inspired by Lovett's travels), tequila is the only spirit on the menu. Order a Tequila Mule or the Tequila And Tonic with grapefruit and bitters, then grab one of the sofas on the mezzanine or head out onto The Terrace for views of Southwark Cathedral and The Shard. **Eleanor Halls**

● **6 O'Meara Street, London SE1. 020 3179 2900. omearalondon.com**

The Roundup

High season: three warming winter rooftop bars

Woody Bear

535 Oxford Street, London W1

woodybear.london

The setup: Taking over Sisu's summer rooftop spot until the end of December, Woody Bear is styled on an abandoned fairground – complete with tea-cup rides, seesaws and swings. You can keep warm with heaters and blankets and an impressive line in hot cheese from French street-food specialists Madame & Monsieur.

Eat this: There are three signature croque monsieurs, but we'll be sharing the raclette with potatoes (*£29*), served from a hefty 6kg wheel of cheese.

Drink this: It's got to be a hot gin punch (*£8*) served at the touch of a button from a coin-operated cocktail dispenser.

Lido at The Curtain

45 Curtain Road, London EC2

thecurtain.com

The setup: Members and guests are in for a treat this winter: the all-day brasserie on the roof terrace (which has a Moroccan-style pool, heated all year round) has had a cosy seasonal makeover, which, naturally, includes plenty of blankets and squashy cushions. They'll be making full use of that handy retractable roof, too.

Eat this: The new Sunday feasting menu includes a spicy garlic roast shellfish sharing platter (*£52*).

Drink this: Centred around "sugar and spice", the new winter cocktail list includes an elderflower hot toddy (*£9*) and a mulled gin menu, changing every week.

Queen Of Hoxton

1-5 Curtain Road, London EC2

queenofhoxton.com

The setup: This buzzy and warm Shoreditch pub is transforming its rooftop bar into a colourful Moroccan medina this winter and it's not holding back. Expect Moorish archways, giant lanterns, cast-iron fire pits and a snug, covered feasting hall.

Eat this: Head to the "winter wigwam" to tuck into halloumi fries with sumac, mint and harissa yoghurt (*£6*) or lamb and apricot tagine with pomegranate and mint couscous (*£8*).

Drink this: The signature hot buttered rum (*£6.50*) ticks all the boxes: spicy, boozy, warming and served in a big mug. **Jennifer Bradly**

For Olde times' sake: Ham, egg and pheasant at AA Rosette-winning restaurant 1650

The Hotel

Ye Olde Bell Hotel, Nottinghamshire

At a storied country retreat, GQ finds a spa experience as fine as the dining

During a lifespan that has crossed five centuries, Ye Olde Bell Hotel in the village of Barnby Moor in Nottinghamshire has moved with the times. It started in business as a coaching inn in the heart of Civil War England, a natural halfway house for stagecoaches travelling between London and Scotland (including, later on, one carrying a young Queen Victoria). But by the 20th century, when four wheels replaced four legs as the quickest way to travel on the Great North Road, the Bell had reinvented itself as a checkpoint for car enthusiasts.

No longer situated directly on the modern A1, Ye Olde Bell is enjoying a very 21st-century reincarnation – as an easy-to-find watering hole complete with spa resort. This multimillion-pound addition, which opened in June, is the latest stage in an ambitious refurbishment campaign undertaken by owners Paul and Hilary Levack since 2002.

Couples order bubbles from spa butlers in between sampling the steam baths

Don't worry that "spa" means the menu is all courgetti and clean-eating smoothies. This is more of a luxury, pampering experience, with couples ordering bubbles from spa butlers in between sampling the Stonebath sauna and something called a "snowstorm" – literally an indoor shower of hailstones to reinvigorate you as you emerge from the steam baths.

Not only is the spa's Herb Garden Brasserie generous with the portions and the chocolate tiramisu, but there is also a range of dining options in Ye Olde Bell Hotel itself. The main event, for residents and locals alike, is 1650, the restaurant where the characteristic blend of classic and contemporary is again in evidence: the name is a nod to the Bell's year of origin, while the AA Rosette-winning cuisine is decidedly on the nouvelle side.

After a palate-whetting seafood amuse bouche, there's a flavour-packed combo of crab rillette and peppered squid served in lobster bisque gel and drizzled with fennel purée, followed by delicious lamb cannon and heritage potatoes. "Artisan" wines are a feature of the menu, but the house white recommendation – a Finca Valero Macabeo – was a great complement to our food choices. And you'll still have room for the excellent local cheese board.

Back in the spa, *GQ* submitted to the Men's Ritual. After two hours of deep body massage and facial, the last thing we wanted to do was hit the road. Ye Olde Bell is a staging post that's hard to say goodbye to.

Neil O'Sullivan

● Rooms from £115 per night. Barnby Moor, Retford DN22 8QS. 01777 705121. yeoldebell-hotel.co.uk

Bell de jour (from top): Dexter beef fillet with ham and root vegetables; duck liver paté and elderflower gel; the hotel exterior

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Purity is not enough for the pioneers at BELVEDERE, where two new varieties are leading

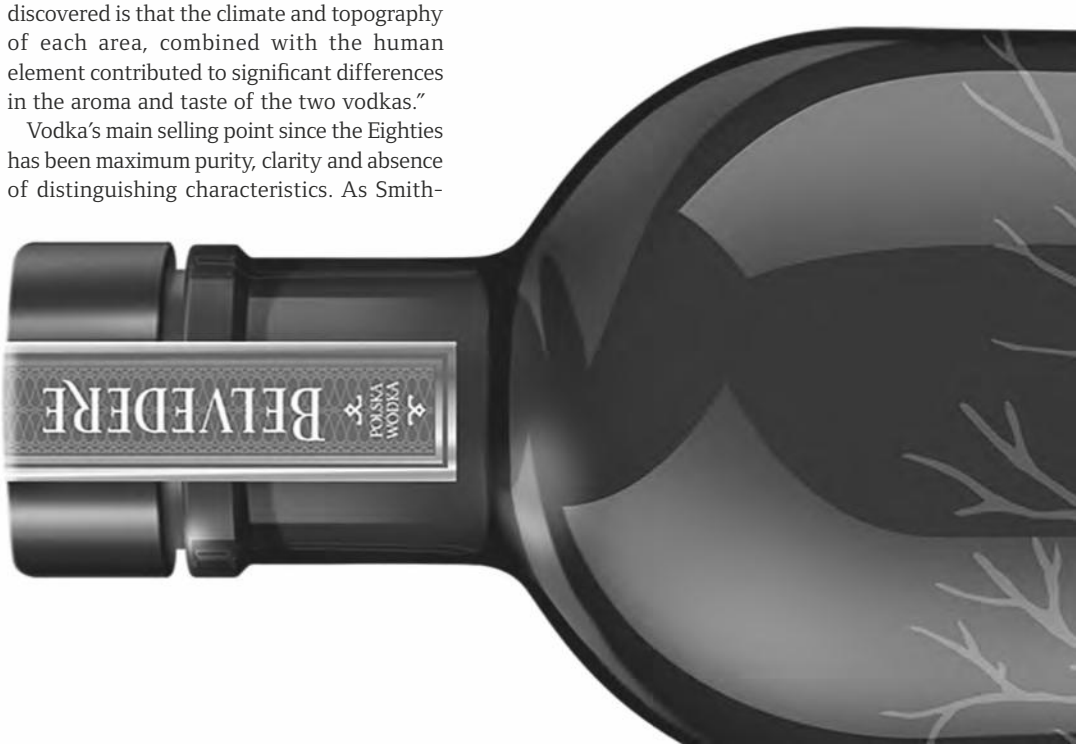
GOES WITH THE TERRITORY

A lot of nonsense is talked about terroir, including the assertion that it doesn't exist. But imagine a tomato growing in a certain type of soil, in a field which catches the late afternoon sun in a particular way, buffeted by local breezes and watered by native streams. It's not a huge leap to deduce that the taste of that tomato owes at least something to all of those factors, or that the wine you pour into your glass bears a stamp of its origins. Now imagine a field of rye intended as a base grain for vodka. Follow the growing conditions with a precise fermentation and distillation process and the resulting vodka will surely represent its provenance and heritage.

Vodka producers are diversifying in creativity and geographic origin, using an emphasis on terroir to distinguish them in a crowded global marketplace. Vela, from the Copper Rivet Distillery in Chatham, makes its vodka from early harvested Kentish wheat, barley and rye, assuring us that the "Kent water, filtered through chalk beds, helps our yeast to produce fruity esters". Woody Creek in Colorado make their Reserve Vodka from the specially imported Stobrawa potato, which they grow and harvest themselves, while Vestal Vodka are famously exacting about their crop varieties and growing conditions.

But Belvedere is pushing this complexity even further after experimenting with a new strain of rye, Dankowski Diamond. "Much of the discussion around terroir can be quite esoteric," says Claire Smith-Warner, Belvedere's brand ambassador and internationally acclaimed First Lady of Vodka. "We wanted to look at facts and demonstrate the impact on taste and character of vodka from rye grown in two distinctly different regions as part of our ambition to help expand and broaden the conversation around vodka. What we discovered is that the climate and topography of each area, combined with the human element contributed to significant differences in the aroma and taste of the two vodkas."

Vodka's main selling point since the Eighties has been maximum purity, clarity and absence of distinguishing characteristics. As Smith-Warner confirms, this is no longer the case. "Today the consumer is looking for authentic spirits that deliver on flavour and complexity rather than something anonymous. In truth, vodkas that are produced to be as neutral as possible are very far away from those vodkas that hail from traditional vodka producing countries such as Poland, Russia and Scandinavia, who have celebrated the flavour and texture of the raw materials from which they are produced." The two new single-estate vodkas are both unfiltered to preserve as much as possible of their distinct characters.



Location, location, location: Belvedere Lake Bartezek (left) and Belvedere Smogóry Forest (below) are produced hundreds of miles apart and provide startlingly different flavours

a vodka revolution with an emphasis on the authenticity of the 'terroir'

STORY BY **Amy Matthews**

But can you truly taste terroir? Can the clear, colourless liquid in the glass really tell the story of its roots? In the new Belvedere vodkas at least, the difference between the two sites is clear – the Lake Bartezek is aromatic, verdant and floral, the Smogóry Forest is textural, broad & savoury. The idiosyncrasies of both sites, hundreds of miles away from each other with different climates, are evident in the two vodkas from the rye wort, through the raw spirit, and in the final product.

Belvedere hasn't just relied on its own or experts' tasting conclusions – it had the two vodkas analysed at every stage, and found distinct differences in the organoleptic compounds which create flavours during fermentation, proving that the rye takes on qualities from where it's grown. This is crucial for consumer confidence, says Marcis Dzelzainis, bartender at Sager & Wilde. "I think it's about authenticity; If a producer says there is a difference between the product they make in one location and another, the consumer wants to be able to identify that."

And will the new focus on flavour and provenance influence the way we drink? Joe Schofield, previously of the Savoy and now Head Bartender at Tippling Club in Hong Kong, thinks so. "Clients want to know more about where the products are from."

If you want to delve into vodka terroir, start by comparing vodkas with different base ingredients, either neat, on the rocks, or in appropriately tailored cocktails. "I tend to use rye vodka if I want a spicier profile to the drink." says Dzelzainis, "I think rye-based vodkas work well in stirred down drinks."

Smith-Warner explains rye's flavour profile: "One should expect to find notes of baked bread, a sweetness not unlike vanilla or caramel, a hint of spice and a pleasant, dry finish." And what to look for in the single estates? "For the Belvedere single estate series the characteristics range from salted caramel, cereal and a touch of honey in Belvedere Smogóry Forest to the bright and fragrant notes of freshly cut rye grain, grass and a hint of almond in Belvedere Lake Bartezek."

Whatever the specific flavours and aromas, the new guard of vodkas are not destined for a Bloody Mary or a V&T – treat them with respect, drink them neat or on the rocks, and give them time to tell their story. **GQ**

Belvedere Smogóry Forest and Lake Bartezek are available at an RRP of £49 each from clos19.com

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Don't tear down our heroes

When it comes to political correctness, the past remains a foreign country, but those who seek to hide the achievements of our greatest men and women are making a monumental mistake

At the core of historical correctness is a lack of humanity

A father does not get many chances to bond with his teenage daughter. By the time she is 15, my daughter's age, the paternal role is largely restricted to that of unpaid taxi driver. So, when my daughter and I came out of Christopher Nolan's *Dunkirk* both visibly moved, it felt like this was a rare chance to talk about stuff that really matters.

I grew up in the shadow of the Second World War. It was everywhere when I was a child. Not just in the memory of the generation who fought it but in the physical evidence that covered my father's torso: a shocking mass of scar tissue from his last action, a Royal Naval Commando raid on Elba in June 1944. But for my daughter – who never knew him – all this stuff was ancient history. Then we went to see Nolan's movie, and the emotions it stirred were exactly the same for both of us. The sacrifice. That was what moved us. The fact that millions of ordinary men risked everything for their country, for freedom, for generations still unborn, and – perhaps most of all – for the friends who fought beside them. I told my daughter the statistic that has always shocked me most about the Second World War – that the life expectancy of a Spitfire pilot during the Battle of Britain was just four weeks. And that degree of suicidal heroism is as unimaginable and alien to me as it is to my 15-year-old daughter.

Watch *Reach For The Sky*, I suggested, the film about Douglas Bader, the most famous Spitfire pilot of them all, who lost both his legs in a flying accident (an incident he coolly described in his logbook as a "bad show") but then went on to shoot down 22 enemy aircraft during the Battle of Britain before being captured. I told her the Germans treated him with great respect – despite him making so many attempts to escape his POW camps that he was eventually sent to Colditz – and that the pilot later received a knighthood for his work on behalf of the disabled. Then, as my daughter tapped "Reach For The Sky" into her phone with the lightning fingers you only have if you were born in the 21st century, I added a word of warning: "Douglas Bader had a dog called N*****."

So that was the end of that conversation. Because my 15-year-old daughter is, quite frankly, never going to watch a film where the hero has a dog called by that name. It doesn't matter how courageous Bader was, it doesn't matter what the man sacrificed to defeat the Nazis and it doesn't matter what he did for the disabled when peace came. And I get it. Of course I do. To my daughter's generation, racism is the ultimate sin. And I am not mocking that attitude. I understand why a young adult born in this century would find it impossible to watch a film where the hero breezily whistles for a dog called N*****.

That excruciating attitude doesn't fit into contemporary conceptions of what is moral, decent and right. True, Bader risked his life defeating a tyranny that murdered millions because of their race. True, he is possibly the greatest advocate for disabled rights in human history. But you can't get away from that damn dog.

The expectation that figures from the distant past should adhere to the enlightened mores of our own time is a very new thing. At its most benign – my daughter's wish that Douglas Bader had a dog called Rover – it is a good-hearted and understandable wish that the past had been less racist and more liberal, less cruel and more progressive, more like us. But at its virtue-signalling worst, such as the call in the *Guardian* for Nelson's statue to be removed from Trafalgar Square because the saviour of this nation was a "white supremacist", it can seem stark raving bonkers – an attempt to make the past historically correct or wipe it from existence.

And now the virus is everywhere – from Oxford University, where activists shook their fists at a statue of Victorian colonialist Cecil »

TONY PARSONS

Illustration **Ricardo Fumanal**

» Rhodes, to every corner of the United States, where dozens of monuments to the Confederacy were torn down or removed or covered up in 2017.

Undoubtedly some of these rebel statues, like the one of General E Lee in Charlottesville, Virginia, had become emotive magnets for neo-Nazis. But the vast majority of them, like the plaque in Brooklyn that marked a tree planted by Robert E Lee before the Civil War began, were harmless historical artefacts. In the age of historical correctness, it suddenly didn't matter. From sea to shining sea, the rebel monuments came down. In Durham, North Carolina, protesters tore down a statue of an unknown Confederate solider and then stamped and spat on it, as if they were expunging racism itself from our wicked world.

Most of these Confederate monuments had been in their little corner of America for so long that they had gone green with age and had never been controversial. But in Trump's bitterly divided America, symbols of the slave-owning southern Confederacy have become as emotionally charged as Nazi swastikas.

Ironically, the most controversial Confederate monument of all, the statue of Robert E Lee sitting on his horse in Charlottesville, Virginia, still stands, but is currently covered by tarpaulin while arguments about its fate rage in the courts.

If the urge for historical correctness feels like farce in the UK – it turned out that one of the pampered young swells demanding the removal of Cecil Rhodes' statue was himself a Rhodes scholar who had accepted a bursary in the old colonialist's name to study postgraduate law – in Charlottesville there was real tragedy when Heather Heyer, a 32-year-old civil-rights activist, was killed by a car driven into anti-fascist demonstrators.

It is impossible to object to the removal of rallying points for white supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis. But it is worth noting that even in the recent past, many enlightened, thoughtful people maintained that Robert E Lee was a decent man who fought for a bad cause.

At the start of the Civil War, Lee was offered the command of the Northern Union armies as well as the Southern Confederate armies. Torn between loyalty to his nation and his home, Lee chose the rebel cause, as he would not fight against his home state of Virginia.

This perception of Lee as a good man tragically trapped on the wrong side of history was reinforced by Ken Burns' magisterial documentary *The Civil War*, where the central narrator, the historian Shelby Foote, called Lee "a noble man". Foote, who died in 2005, was a Southerner himself, but no apologist for slavery, and also said, "The institution of slavery is a stain on this nation's soul that will never be cleansed."

But that is no longer good enough. *Newsweek* recently noted, "The desire to banish any praise of Confederates, even if it's their heroism in battle, and the urge to remove all tributes to them is common now."

After the Charlottesville tragedy, monuments all across America that had gone unnoticed for generations were charged with toxic symbolism. The mayor of Baltimore ordered all of the city's four Confederate statues to be removed; they were whisked away in the dead of night.

"For supporters of the Confederate monuments, removing them from parks and avenues will be a blow against the heritage and historical memory," wrote Rich Lowry in the *New York Post*. "But the statues have often been part of an effort to whitewash the Confederacy. And it's one thing for a statue to be merely a resting place for pigeons. It's another for it to be a fighting cause for neo-Nazis."

Historical correctness offers no hope for the future

But where does this war on history end? Some of the most revered figures in American history owned slaves. Why are they given a pass? George Washington, the first president of the United States, owned slaves. Should his face be removed from the dollar bill? Why not? Thomas Jefferson, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, not only owned slaves but had sex with them – which is rape, because how can you have consensual sex with a slave? Jefferson famously noted that all men are created equal – although, of course, that didn't include his slaves. The advocates of historical correctness are highly selective about the pedestals they want emptied.

What was notable about the protesters who tore down the statue to an unknown Confederate soldier in North Carolina was the fury they unleashed on the thing once it was crumpled on the ground. Traditionally, only savages inflicted wild-eyed fury on historical objects. In 2015, Islamic State released a video of their members using drills and sledgehammers to destroy statues of ancient deities in a museum in Mosul and at the archaeological site Nergal Gate. Some of the statues were thousands of years old. IS went on similar orgies of destruction in Palmyra and Nimrud and gleefully burned down Mosul Library, which contained more than 8,000 irreplaceable books and manuscripts. The director-general of Unesco, Irina Bokova, called it "a cultural tragedy".

Beyond the beheading of innocent aid workers and journalists or the trafficking of Yazidi women and children as sex slaves, this wanton vandalism of what IS called "false idols" was seen as a sign of their total moral bankruptcy. But now, nice people are declaring war on history. Caring, non-racist people. Historically correct people. But at the self-righteous core of historical correctness is a complete lack of humanity.

One Civil War anecdote recounted by Foote in *The Civil War* was when Union troops corner a lone Confederate solider and ask the wretch – who owns no shoes, let alone slaves – why he is fighting them. "Because you're down here," he says. And isn't that how most men choose their sides in war? Not because they are good or bad but because of the geographical accident of their birth. My father is a war hero only because he was born in London, not Berlin.

There is a statue of Douglas Bader at Goodwood airfield, formerly RAF Westhampnett, scene of his last wartime flight. Should we be taking down this statue? His long-dead dog would still have the same unfortunate name.

Historical correctness does not change the past. It does not improve the present. It offers no hope for the future. You can't make the dead agree with you. You can't impose the standards of our time on those who have been dust for a century. You can't expect a Confederate soldier to share the same values as some snowflake on Twitter.

In 1945, a victory parade of 300 aircraft flew over London led by one lone Spitfire piloted by Douglas Bader. And despite that blighted black labrador, future generations would be wise to decide that it is worth keeping the great man's statue. Because you can tear down all the statues of Robert E Lee and his horse and Douglas Bader and his dog, but history will never be a safe space. GQ

Premium Ultimate Down Cheater in Cobalt, £194.99. Premium Ultimate Down Cheater in Red, £194.99 Both by **Superdry**. superdry.com

Extreme styling

Beat the cold this winter while staying ahead of the fashion curve with a premium down jacket by Superdry

One glance at a weather forecast – or out the window – will tell you that the weather is getting more extreme all the time. When a big chill rolls in, you need a coat designed to deal with that extremity. Superdry's premium down jackets do just that, thanks to their down filling, which is naturally breathable, lightweight and compressible. All its down jackets are also certified by the

These jackets allow you to wear them your way, mixing up what you pair them with

Responsible Down Standard so you know that what's on your back is not only made from the best possible material to keep you warm, but also it's fully ethical. Of course, that's only half a jacket's job. It's also got to ensure you're looking your best, whatever the weather, so handily these jackets have been designed with extreme style in mind. Neutral colours such as khakis, navys, and blacks are studded with design details such as pops of colour, metal appliques and tweed interlinings. That means that these jackets allow you to wear them your way, mixing up what you pair them with to suit your look. You officially have no excuse to ever feel the chill again.

Current. Trends.

The plug-in hybrid C 350 e.

Official government fuel consumption figures in mpg (litres per 100km) for the plug-in hybrid C 350 e: Combined 117.7 (2.4) - 134.5 (2.1). CO_2 emissions 54-48g/km.

Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

THE OFFICIAL LIST

THE GQ BEST DRESSED MEN 2018

It's the list they've all been waiting for. From effortless Hollywood topliners to the neon-bright hitmakers and designers who serve as their own best advertisements, this is the only countdown that counts. Allow us to introduce this year's style-statement men of distinction

Photographs Getty Images; Goff Photos; Instar Images; Rex; Xposurephotos.com; Zumapress.com

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Model shown is a concept vehicle.

Fashion. Forward.

The Concept EQ.

The PANEL

Astrid **Andersen**
Giorgio **Armani**
Gary **Armstrong**
Christopher **Bailey**
Alfie **Baldwin**
Holly **Bruce**
Charlie **Burton**
Nick **Carvell**
Dan **Caten**
Dean **Caten**
George **Chesterton**
Sandra **Choi**
Carlotta **Constant**
Tony **Cook**
Lou **Dalton**
Luke **Day**
Joana **de la Fuente**
Alexandre **Elicha**
Laurent **Elicha**
Raphael **Elicha**
Stefano **Gaudioso**
Grace **Gilfeather**
Dean **Gomilsek-Cole**
David **Hagglund**
Eleanor **Halls**
Jonathan **Heaf**
Paul **Henderson**
Tommy **Hilfiger**
Richard **James**
Elgar **Johnson**
Dylan **Jones**
Kim **Jones**
Daniel **Kearns**
Robin **Key**
Michael **Kors**
Luke **Leitch**
Becky **Lucas**
Stuart **McGurk**
Laura **Pacelli**
Grant **Pearce**
Bill **Prince**
Jonathan Daniel **Pryce**
Jake **Pummintr**
Conrad **Quilty-Harper**
Bluey **Robinson**
Caroline **Rush**
Sir Paul **Smith**
Tom **Stubbs**
Luke **Sweeney**
Robert **Tateossian**
Stephen **Webster**
Thom **Whiddett**
Mark **Williams**
Ingo **Wilts**
Mark **Wogan**
Giuseppe **Zanotti**

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THE GQ BEST-DRESSED MEN 2018

As you might expect, there's a great deal of conversational throw down on *British GQ*'s editorial shop floor. When it comes to debate, and encouraging dissident voices to clash, challenge and hold forth with strong, intelligent opinion, I like to think I am pretty democratic. (So long as the team knows the Editor is always right.) It's all moderately civil, you understand, although not that one time when luxury Italian brand Brioni enlisted Metallica for their advertising campaign – people really lost minds over that. Here are just some of things I overheard while putting *GQ*'s annual Best-Dressed Men list together: "Seriously, we have reached peak rollneck"; "Who, apart from Bill, would pay $17.8 million for Paul Newman's original Rolex Daytona?"; "Yes, I know *who* Blondey McCoy is, but what does he *do* exactly?"; "Just because it has doodles on it doesn't make it cool, Jonathan"; "Can you smoke patchouli?" You get the idea. Conversation is, generally, a cross between a TED Talk greenroom and a Reddit "Ask Me Anything" with Malcom Gladwell and Elon Musk. But we do take style incredibly seriously. And why not? You do, too. Of all the arguments that rage on the subject, the one that generates the greatest number of accusatory fingers pointed is who we will hail as Britain's Best-Dressed Man. Should it be Skepta? A man who has done more for brooch wearers in 2017 than the Queen. Or what about Rafferty Law, Jude's son, a man who's fast become a Talented Mr Ripley for Gen Y-ers – just with more skateboard. In the end, there could only be one winner: huge congratulations to British actor Matt Smith. A more original winner you're unlikely to meet. You might not agree with our choice. You might think we picked Mr Smith so we could proclaim "Crowned!" (get it?) on the cover of this January double issue. But then you'd be wrong. After all, were you not listening before? The Editor's decision is final.

Dylan Jones
Editor-In-Chief

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

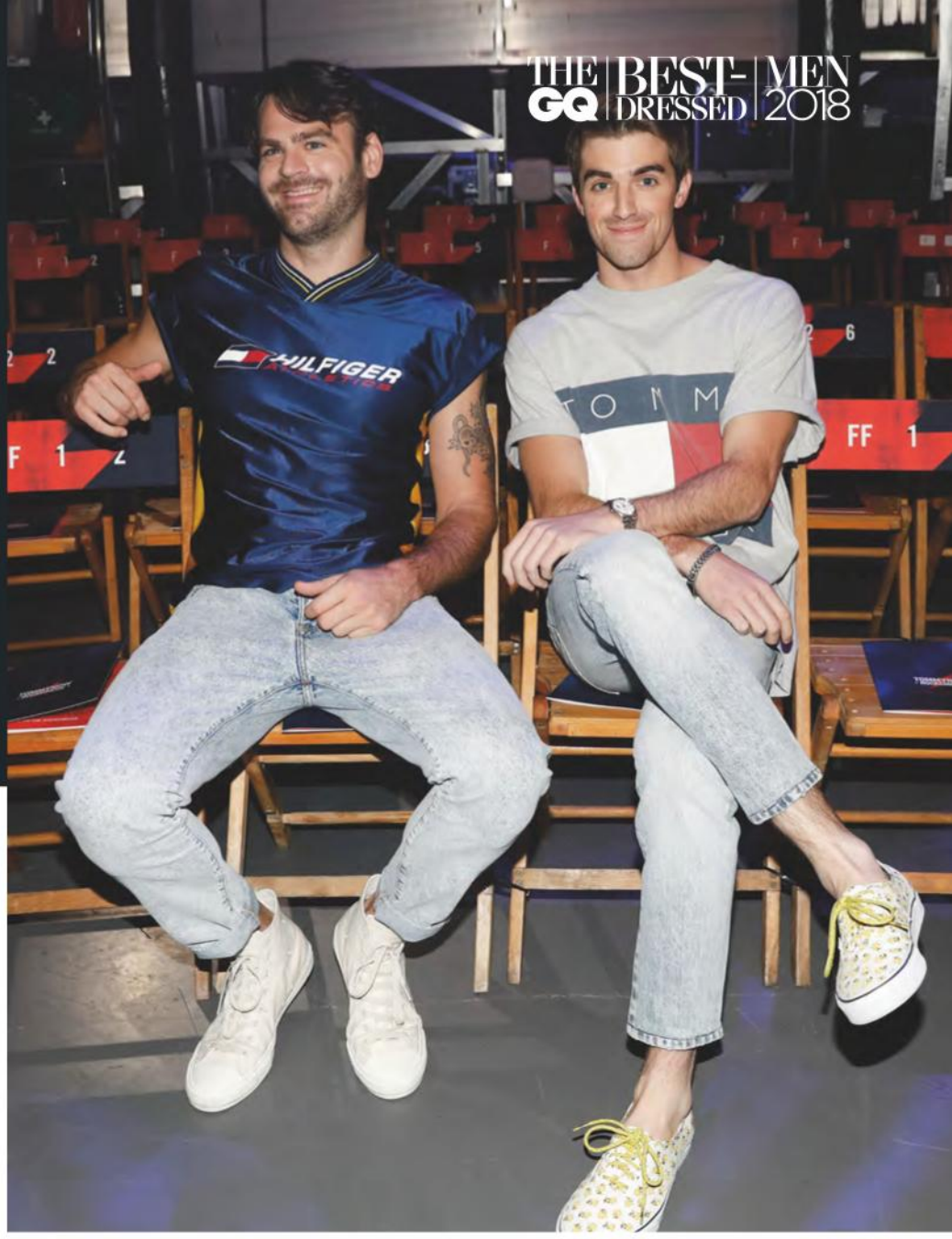
50 The CHAINSMOKERS

Band

(NEW ENTRY)

"Andrew Taggart and Alex Pall of The Chainsmokers are quintessential American musicians with a cool and youthful style." *Tommy Hilfiger, fashion designer*

GQ says: We wouldn't necessarily endorse chain-smoking, but this band's style? Absolutely.



49 Rafferty Law

Influencer

(NEW ENTRY)

"Since 21-year-old Rafferty Law made his catwalk debut in 2014 with DKNY, he's been a mainstay at London Fashion Week Men's. Law rocks athleisure like no one else: from dark slouchy bomber jackets and embroidered hoodies to khaki-coloured baggy trousers and oversized denim. With 34,000 Instagram followers and counting, as well as his new creative collective, Something To Hate On, Law is making waves far beyond fashion. Jude who?" *Eleanor Halls, Staff Writer, GQ*

GQ says: Jude Law's son is clearly following in his father's fashionable footsteps.

48 Hu BING

Model

(LAST YEAR No42)

"One of those annoyingly charming men, who holds many different roles [actor, model, presenter, producer], at 46, Hu Bing maintains the air of a Thirties film star, with his tall build working perfectly in tailoring. One word of warning, whoever stands next to him better be on top form." *Dean Gomilsek-Cole, designer, Turnbull & Asser*

GQ says: Bing is now a regular on the UK style scene thanks to his role as an ambassador for London Fashion Week Men's – and with solid fashion choices like this, we're glad to be seeing more of him. ››

Photographs Getty Images; Rex

47

Gary OLDMAN

Actor

(NEW ENTRY)

"Because he was never into the 'glam' thing, Gary Oldman represents the pure essence of sober British style. He's an expert at mixing vintage tailoring with contemporary collections, such as the last Paul Smith collection. His punk roots have evolved into a new bohemian look, meaning he looks as comfortable in bespoke tailoring and shiny brogues as he does in a studded leather jacket and Dr Martens. It's a state of mind that he projects. Above all, I appreciate how he uses accessories – he is a master when it comes to scarves and ties." *Laura Pacelli, Senior Editor, Italian GQ*

***GQ* says: Oldman is one of the highest-grossing A-list actors of all time – and still one of the most stylish. He was also a good friend of David Bowie.**

46 Stefano Pilati

Designer

(NEW ENTRY)

"He is simply the chicest man I know." *Kim Jones, designer, Louis Vuitton*

***GQ* says:** Stefano Pilati's been keeping quiet since he stepped down as creative director of Ermenegildo Zegna last year, but his superb style still shouts loudly when he is seen out and about at events.

Actor

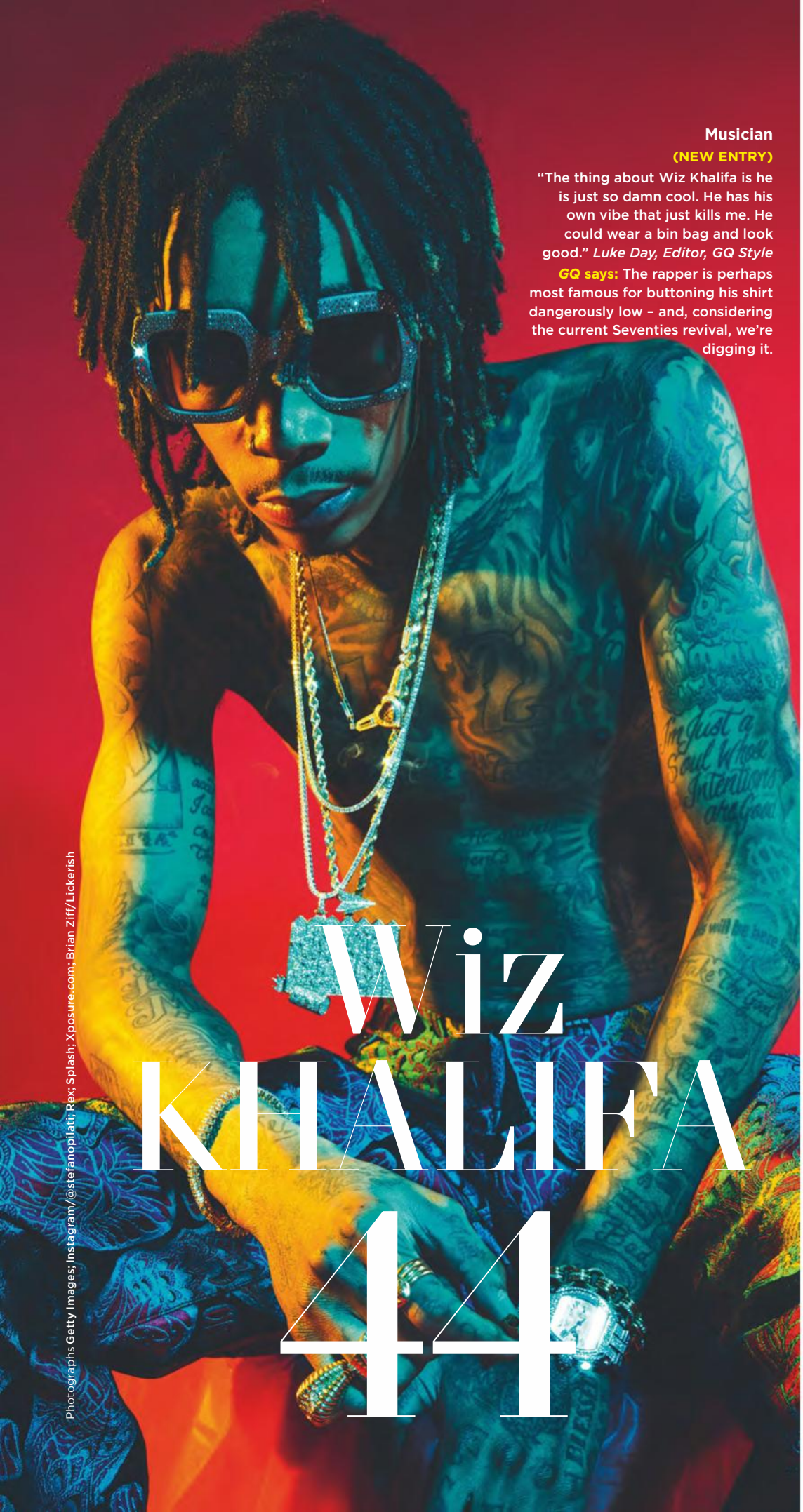
(NEW ENTRY)

"After a long time appearing in perfectly nice suits on the red carpet, this year Jonah Hill suddenly came into his own. The tailoring was swapped out for relaxed-fit streetwear: loose chinos and T-shirts worn with varsity jackets, baseball caps and Vans. He grew out his beard; he slicked back his hair; he became the spokesman for achingly cool skatewear brand Palace. How did this happen? How did Jonah Hill become the coolest bro in LA? We have no idea, but we applaud him." *Nick Carvell, Associate Style Editor, GQ*

***GQ* says:** In a world of stiff red-carpet suiting, Hill is Hollywood's poster boy for cool, sleek, relaxed-fit sportswear.

45

Jonah HILL



Photographs Getty Images; Instagram/@stefanopilati; Rex; Splash; Xposure.com; Brian Ziff/Lickerish

Musician

(NEW ENTRY)

"The thing about Wiz Khalifa is he is just so damn cool. He has his own vibe that just kills me. He could wear a bin bag and look good." *Luke Day, Editor, GQ Style*

***GQ* says:** The rapper is perhaps most famous for buttoning his shirt dangerously low – and, considering the current Seventies revival, we're digging it.

Wiz KHALIFA 44

43 Demna Gvasalia

Designer

(NEW ENTRY)

"It's rare to be able to pinpoint somebody who's single-handedly inspired an entire menswear fanboy movement. Enter Demna Gvasalia: the designer behind cult brand Vetements and now Balenciaga who is the lodestar for anyone looking to copy the sportswear-inspired Soviet style the designer has made his signature." *Nick Carvell*

***GQ* says:** **From his Bernie Sanders-inspired collection for Balenciaga to his personal style, Gvasalia isn't just in tune with the menswear pulse, he's dictating it.**

42 Roger Federer

Sportsman

(NEW ENTRY)

"A class act, from the tennis court to his wardrobe." *Charlie Burton, Senior Commissioning Editor, GQ*

***GQ* says:** The rock star of the tennis world has a wardrobe game as impressive as his performance on the court. »

THE TOP TEN BEST-DRESSED MEN IN BUSINESS

These men look superb whether they're repping a suit or going smart-casual at work – proof that you no longer need to wear a tie to be the most stylish man in the office.

10 Cédric Charbit
The Balenciaga CEO is proof his creative director (and fellow 2018 Best-Dressed honoree) Demna Gvasalia's signature oversized shoulders are 21st-century power dressing at its finest.

9 Gerry McGovern
Land Rover's design director recently teamed up with Orlebar Brown on a waterproof suit, to keep him looking as smart at his desk as when he's out on the road testing new models.

8 Marco Bizzarri
When he joined Gucci as CEO and president, one of his first decisions was to promote Alessandro Michele to the creative director role. Smart move (and smart suits).

7 Stephan Winkelmann
Italian car magnates have a habit of being seriously stylish, but the former CEO of Automobili Lamborghini raises the bar even higher.

6 Ingo Wilts
You won't find a man who sports a pair of square specs – or a sleek black suit and tie – in the boardroom better than the chief brand officer at Hugo Boss.

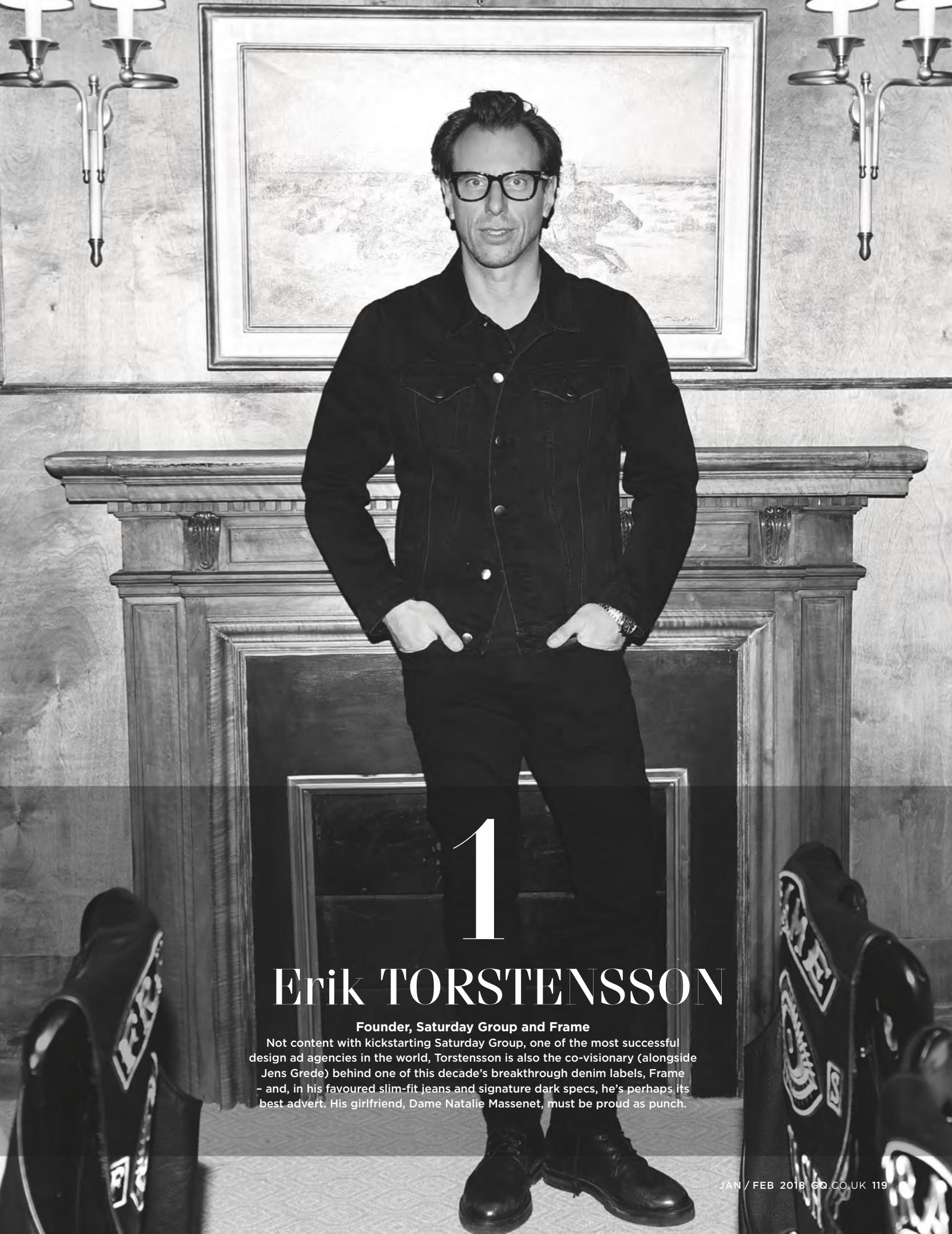
5 Nick Brown
A former partner at venture capital firm 14W, Brown's latest partnership is with Dame Natalie Massenet to launch Imaginary Ventures. And if that's not enough style, he's also the boyfriend of the stylishly astute Derek Blasberg.

4 Juan Santa Cruz
This silver-haired, Chilean-born restaurateur – known for his monogrammed shirts – can not only put together one hell of a handsome restaurant (have you seen Isabel in Mayfair?), but also one hell of a slick outfit.

3 José Neves
As the president of a company with a rumoured £3.8 billion IPO, Farfetch's main man doesn't need a tie to prove he's one of the fashion industry's most powerful players – his sports-luxe expertise speaks volumes.

2 Dumi Oburota
The man who cofounded the hotshot record label Disturbing London with his longtime collaborator Tinie Tempah is as head-turning in a Savile Row bespoke suit and tie as he is repping something from his business partner's What We Wear label.

Photographs Getty Images; Dominic O'Neill; Rex



1

Erik TORSTENSSON

Founder, Saturday Group and Frame

Not content with kickstarting Saturday Group, one of the most successful design ad agencies in the world, Torstensson is also the co-visionary (alongside Jens Grede) behind one of this decade's breakthrough denim labels, Frame – and, in his favoured slim-fit jeans and signature dark specs, he's perhaps its best advert. His girlfriend, Dame Natalie Massenet, must be proud as punch.

41 Charlie Siem

Musician

(NEW ENTRY)

"This man bosses his clothes so well you hardly notice he's carrying a violin – apart from when he's playing it. One of the UK's most exciting classical musicians, Charlie has performed with everyone from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to The Who to Miley Cyrus, all while maintaining his own solid sense of style: think sharp, well-cut suits, high-waisted chinos and round-neck T-shirts, usually accompanied by a wide-legged stance. Oh, and a violin." *Becky Lucas, Insight And Strategy Editor, GQ*

***GQ* says: The English violinist's fans include Lady Gaga and Katy Perry, not to mention Dolce & Gabbana, Dior and Boss, who've all dressed him.**

40 Aziz ANSARI

Actor

(NEW ENTRY)

"Meeting Aziz for the first time earlier this year, I was struck by how his confidence gives him the ability to mix patterns, textures and colours in such interesting ways." *Sir Paul Smith, fashion designer*

***GQ* says:** The star of *Master Of None* always makes us laugh – but never about what he's wearing.

39 STORMZY

Musician

(NEW ENTRY)

"I love his low-key, logo-free tracksuits and basics." *Stephen Webster, jewellery designer*

***GQ* says:** Whether he's wearing a luxury bomber or a two-piece suit, Stormzy always does it right.

38 Eddie REDMAYNE

Actor

(LAST YEAR No2)

"I think Eddie has a sense of effortless elegance in every occasion, formal and casual."

Stefano Gaudioso, global style director, Corneliani

GQ says: If they gave out Oscars for wearing bold suits on the red carpet, this guy would be the Meryl Streep of superb tailoring.

Photographs John Balsom; Simon Emmett/Trunk; Getty Images; Splash

37 Cillian Murphy

Actor

(RE-ENTRY)

"Cillian's roles are so sartorially savvy that I think a lot has rubbed off on his day-to-day attire. He wears clothes cleverly and elegantly." *Daniel Kearns, designer, Kent & Curwen*

***GQ* says: Considering he's the star of *Peaky Blinders* and *Dunkirk*, both set in the early 20th century, his style is distinctly right now.**

36 Lin-Manuel Miranda

Playwright, composer and actor

(NEW ENTRY)

"He might have had to keep his hair long for his role in *Hamilton*, but since leaving the cast, he's had a full-on style transformation. Not only does he look super-slick since he chopped off his ponytail (man-bun, be gone), he's also invested in a new wardrobe of slim suits, cool bombers and the occasional corduroy blazer. Bravo, sir." *Nick Carvell, Associate Style Editor, GQ*

***GQ* says: The man behind *Hamilton* will soon be bringing his laid-back style to London as his show transfers to our side of the Atlantic. ››**

35 David FURNISH

Entrepreneur

(LAST YEAR No25)

"Always elegant and graceful, David is consistent in his style. He knows his personal taste but isn't afraid to experiment. I also think his humility and authentic personality shines through in the way he carries himself." *Jonathan Daniel Pryce, photographer*

"My nomination would go to David Furnish. He is always impeccably dressed, from a classically tailored Savile Row suit to European designer labels, black tie to casual. He constantly creates an effortless look to suit the occasion." *Robert Tateossian, jewellery designer*

***GQ* says: The latest London Fashion Week Men's ambassador has had a strong start in his new gig, repping a series of bold tux blazers over the past year.**

34 Nick CAVE

Musician

(NEW ENTRY)

"In his uniform of bespoke black suit and unbuttoned shirt, a look born from the same gothic imagination as his soul-stirring lyrics, Nick Cave is his own best advert. Ordered mostly from Chris Kerr on Berwick Street, Soho, this is a wardrobe that exceeds in nuance what it lacks in colour. The cowboy belts, forward-point collars, Chelsea boots and carefully cut flares are the work of a man, and his tailor, undictated to by trend. After all, wherever Cave goes, he leads." *Holly Bruce, Sub-Editor, GQ*

***GQ* says:** Thirty-eight years into his career and the Bad Seeds frontman's white shirt and black suit combo is as fresh as ever. We dig (Lazarus, Dig) it.

33 Nick Grimshaw

Presenter

(LAST YEAR No6)

"Grimmy is the perfect example of someone who wears clothes to match his personality. He's carefree, chilled and approachable. He's confident not arrogant and does his own thing as opposed to running round town looking like an idiot and trying to fit in. Ain't nobody got time for that." *Elgar Johnson, Fashion Director, GQ Style*

***GQ* says:** Considering his excellent wardrobe, it's a shame he's on the radio.

Photographs Tomo Brejc; Eyevine; Getty Images; Matrixpictures; Rex Features

31

Jack Guinness

Model

(LAST YEAR No35)

"Jack's style is quintessentially British – good humoured, charming and full of character much like the man himself." *Ingo Wilts, chief brand officer, Hugo Boss*

***GQ* says:** Owner of not only one of the sleekest wardrobes in the land, but also one of the sleekest beards. ››

32

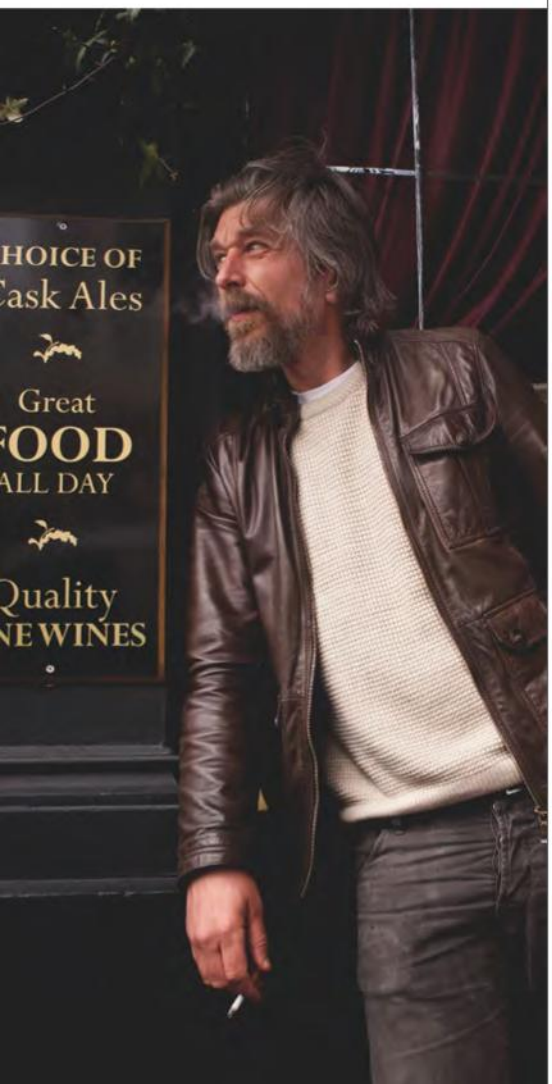
Karl Ove KNAUSGAARD

Author

(NEW ENTRY)

"The Norwegian literary sensation has a style – tortured-writer-turned-father-of-four dishevelment – that verges on reckless abandon. But the tattered denim, Cruella de Vil hair and perpetual cigarette all enrich a grubby elegance that's authentic to the core. Add in the air of success afforded to someone published in 22 languages and you've got a style (and author) for the ages." *Alfie Baldwin, Associate Picture Editor, GQ*

***GQ* says:** **He brings pared-back Scandi style to every event.**



Musician

(LAST YEAR No23)

"Being confident, not trying too hard, having fun and experimenting makes for a leading best-dressed man of the year. Pharrell Williams has great individual style that exudes a cool confidence." *Caroline Rush, CEO, British Fashion Council*

GQ says: Quite possibly the only grown man who makes shorts look cool.

'Pharrell has individual style that exudes great confidence'

Caroline Rush

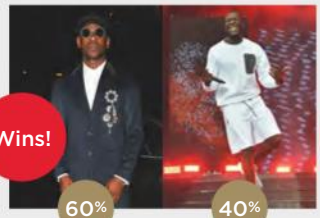
30

Pharrell WILLIAMS

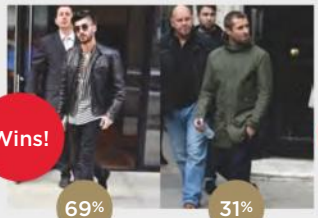
THE BEST-DRESSED MAN IN BRITAIN: READERS' PLAY-OFFS

As voted for on GQ.co.uk!

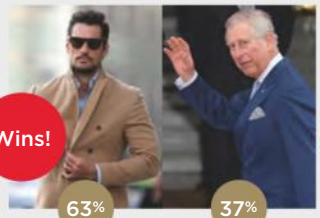
Our annual online vote pitted eight of our country's most stylish sons against each other to discover who you thought was Britain's best-dressed man – and you voted in your thousands in our polls on *GQ*'s Instagram, Twitter and Facebook accounts. This year, Zayn Malik came out on top, making this his third win after taking the crown in 2013 and 2016. Here's how the matches went down...



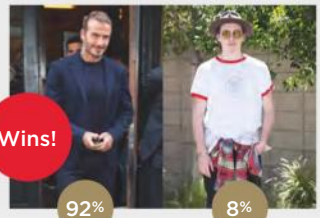
Wins! 60% SKEPTA — 40% STORMZY



Wins! 69% Zayn MALIK — 31% Liam GALLAGHER



Wins! 63% David GANDY — 37% Prince CHARLES



Wins! 92% David BECKHAM — 8% Brooklyn BECKHAM

8% SKEPTA

92% Zayn MALIK — Wins!

42% David GANDY

58% David BECKHAM — Wins!

Wins!

75% of the public vote — Zayn MALIK

25% of the public vote — David BECKHAM

Photographs Getty Images; Splash; Wenn

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Musician

(LAST YEAR No36)

"Just as Zayn Malik's music is soulful, his style is natural. His whole approach is contemporary, an easy coolness with the right amount of modern rebel." *Giuseppe Zanotti, shoe designer*

"Something we've always admired about Malik is his ability to always be true to his creative self. He's honed a style that is his own, combining high fashion with street cool. His eccentric yet quirky style is definitely worthy of note." *Dean and Dan Caten, fashion designers, DSquared2*

GQ says: Dating supermodel Gigi Hadid only seems to have supercharged the style game of Bradford's most famous son.

29

Zayn MALIK

'His whole approach is easy, with the right amount of rebellion'

Giuseppe Zanotti

Photographs Flynet; Doug Inglish; Rex

28

David BECKHAM

National treasure

(LAST YEAR No13)

"What is there to say about Beckham's style that hasn't already been said? On the one hand, he's like a beautiful navy suit: a classic that will always be in style no matter its age. On the other hand, he's made a career of trying cool new styles and cutting-edge labels – not to mention more hairstyles than any other celebrity we can think of. Combine these two and you can see why this menswear legend is always on best-dressed lists around the globe – and still as relevant as ever. You keep doing you, David."

Nick Carvell

***GQ* says:** The original British menswear maverick is still at the top of his game – and clearly passing his time-honed tips to his son Brooklyn. ››

Power dressing

A new generation of designers present the ultimate new-generation car:
The Mercedes-Benz Concept EQA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **Mitch Payne**
STYLING BY **Hope Lawrie**

At a time when the world is changing faster than ever before, we need designers capable of looking to the future. Whether they're working in car design or fashion, the people with the sharpest, smartest and most inventive ideas stay ahead of the curve. That's why we've brought together three of Britain's best and brightest designers with the Concept EQA – the first all-electric EQ concept vehicle in the compact segment from Mercedes-Benz.

With over 272hp (that's 200kW in EQA speak), the Concept EQA can accelerate from zero to 62mph in five seconds.

Staying right at the forefront of cutting-edge trends is something the first of our designers, Oliver Spencer, knows all about. "You should always be pointing forward," says Spencer. "I think it's important to move forward but have respect for classic designs."

As you can see from his efforts, Spencer is always keen to shake things up. For him, looking to the future is just as important in his driveway as on the catwalk. "I am most looking forward to a time when everyone will be driving an electric car," he says. "In terms of fashion, I'm also looking towards a time when technology is fully integrated into design."

Jacket, £765. T-shirt, £45. Trousers, £180. All by **Oliver Spencer**. oliverspencer.co.uk. Shoes by **Grenson**, £220. grenson.com

Unusual, provocative design choices are also the signature of Grace Wales Bonner, one of British menswear's fastest rising stars

The Concept EQA isn't just innovative because of what's on the inside of the car – but also what's on the outside. The front of the car displays a virtual radiator grille, a sleek black panel which contains an LED matrix. When in "Sport" mode it shows an animated flaming wing, and in "Sport Plus" a vertical "Panamericana" grille displays.

Unusual, provocative design choices are also the signature of Grace Wales Bonner, one of British menswear's fastest rising stars. Despite only graduating from Central St Martins in 2014, she has already gone on to be awarded as the Emerging Menswear Designer at the British Fashion Awards in 2015 and to win the LVMH Young Designer Prize in 2016. Her Spring Summer 2018 collection shows off the breadth and depth of Wales Bonner's ambition and how accomplished she already is at fulfilling it.

Unquestionably, Wales Bonner is a talent we'll be watching long into the future – much like the Concept EQA and ten other all-electric models available to buy and on the road by 2022.

Jacket, £180, Trousers, £485. Both by **Wales Bonner**. matchesfashion.com. Loafers by **Robert Clergerie**, £350. robertclergerie.com

For Mercedes-Benz, the future is brighter than ever. Rather than using conventional headlights, the designers of the Concept EQA opted for laser fibres. This means both better, more even lighting of the road and a cleaner, sharper-looking design.

Someone who's spent their life looking to the future is our third and final designer, Tinie Tempah. His What We Wear label has become synonymous with staying just ahead of the trend, so unsurprisingly looking forward is something Tempah feels passionately about. "Things are continuously evolving in our generation at a quicker rate than ever before," says the Plumstead-born designer and musician. "I believe technology and resources around us will change how we wear what we wear in terms of comfort, our ethical responsibility to the planet and innovation".

"That's why it's important for me to think ahead instead of relying too much on what has been done in the past." Just as the Concept EQA represents an evolution for Mercedes-Benz, so Tempah believes we should all be looking for ways to move forwards. "I think as a creative or an artist, even as a human being you are constantly growing and changing and most people are trying to find ways to reinvent themselves," he says. "It's a part of human nature."

Jacket, £225. Tracksuit trousers, £150. T-shirt, £65. Socks, £15. All by **What We Wear**. whatwewear.com. Trainers by **Nike**, £80. schuh.co.uk

Model shown is a concept car. For more information please visit mercedes-benz.co.uk

27 Brunello CUCINELLI

Designer

(NEW ENTRY)

"'*Gioco tutti giorno*,' Brunello Cucinelli explained when I asked about how damn vital he is (for his 64 years). It translates as 'play all day', and while daily football certainly helps him keep a refined silhouette, it's far from the whole picture. Cucinelli mastered a new blend of sartorial and casual; a look that shows he doesn't *think* about what clothes to wear, he simply *feels* it. The way Cucinelli slings pieces together has defined a new style cipher that transcends age and location." *Tom Stubbs, fashion stylist and writer*

GQ says: The king of Italian cashmere is perma-layered in the luxurious fabric – and rightly so.

Luke DAY

Editor

(LAST YEAR No24)

"Gorgeously, fashionably refined. No shrinking violet, a killer look every time. Forever inspired."

Lou Dalton, fashion designer

GQ says: We'd expect nothing less from the main man at the UK's most influential fashion biannual (and our brother publication), *GQ Style*.

26

25

Actor

(LAST YEAR No44)

"With a natural charm and confidence, Ryan Gosling makes even his most fashion-forward choices look laid-back and effortless."

Michael Kors, fashion designer

GQ says: Lots of men can do the red carpet right, but Gosling is one of the few leading men in Hollywood who can look like an A-lister even on his days off. ››

Ryan GOSLING

Photographs Goff; Jean-Philippe Joseph; Adam Katz Sinding/Trunk Archive

24 Mark RONSON

Musician

(LAST YEAR No45)

"He has an eclectic signature style that effortlessly mixes formal with a more relaxed style, so it always looks consistent and authentic."

Sandra Choi, creative director, Jimmy Choo

GQ says: For an Englishman, this DJ and producer sure gets that sleek Euro-meets-Americana vibe spot on.

23 Blondey McCoy

Artist

(NEW ENTRY)

"You can see how the eclectic and sophisticated influences that inform Blondey McCoy's work translate in the way he dresses. He has this incredibly unique and genuine sense of style, which is really refreshing." *Christopher Bailey, outgoing chief creative officer, Burberry*

GQ says: He's the poster child for multihyphenate millennials: skater, designer, artist and, most recently, the new face of Burberry.

22 Virgil Abloh

Designer, Off-White

(NEW ENTRY)

"Virgil Abloh has been instrumental in elevating streetwear to its credible position in the luxury market. His personal style mirrors his label by riffing on graphic prints, head-to-toe black and grungy denim." *Robin Key, Photographic Director, GQ*

GQ says: The creative director of Off-White has gone from strength to strength since his original gig as Kanye West's stylist.

21 Rocco Ritchie

Influencer

(NEW ENTRY)

"My vote would go to Rocco Ritchie – his style is effortlessly cool. He always incorporates his skater roots into what he wears, but recently is being more experimental, mixing different genres in with his favourite sportswear. I think he is becoming a real style contender." *David Hagglund, creative director, Topshop*

***GQ* says: The son of Madonna and Guy Ritchie has become every Supreme fanboy's style icon.**

20 Prince Charles

Heir to the throne

(RE-ENTRY)

"Prince Charles has always dressed beautifully and he has always set a great example – not least to his son Prince William, another Savile Row customer." *Richard James, designer*

***GQ* says: The best advertisement for the sartorial power of a Savile Row suit since his great uncle the Duke Of Windsor.**

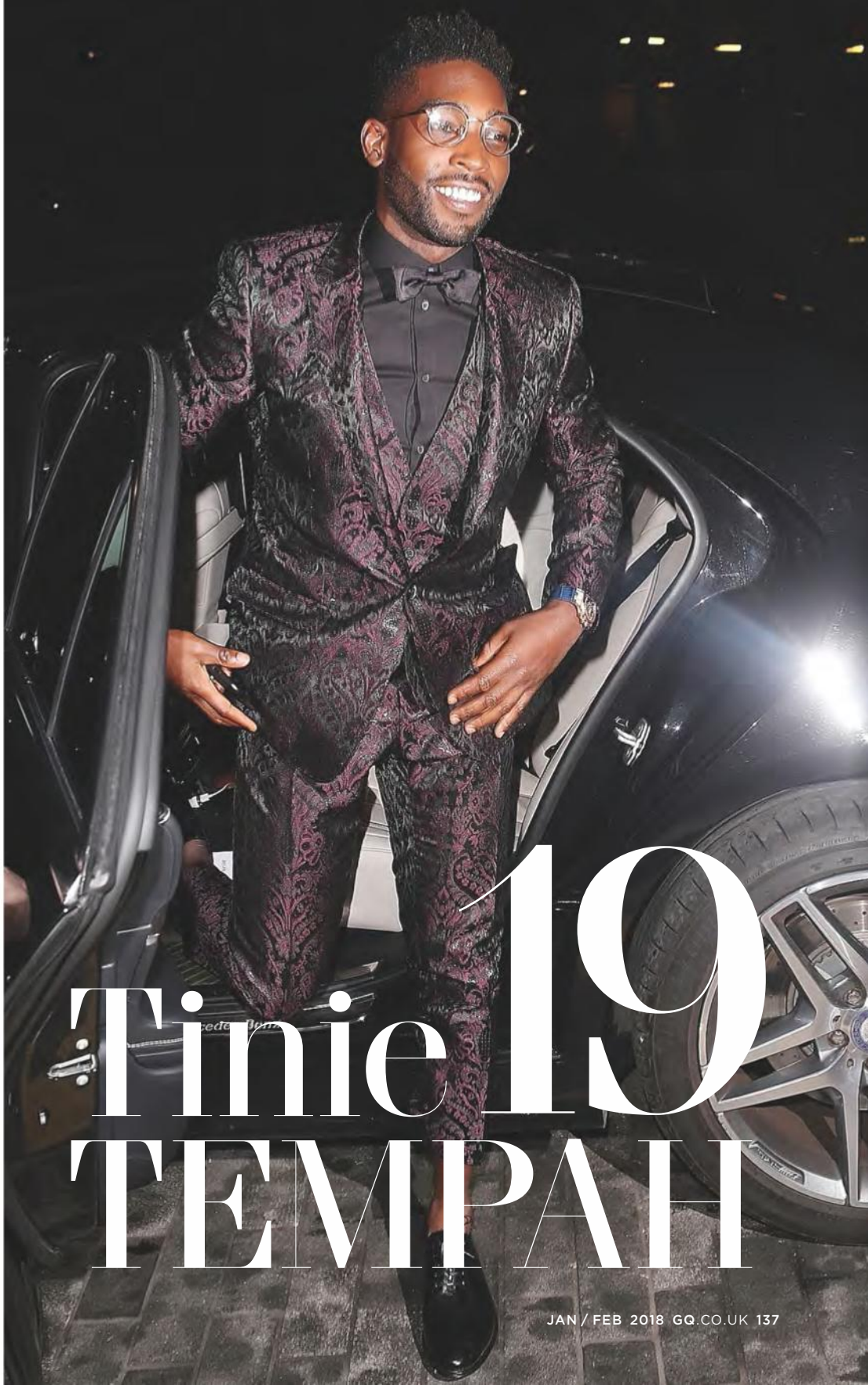
Photographs Backgrid; Getty Images; Goff; Rex

Musician

(LAST YEAR No50)

"Sometimes Tinie Tempah can push the envelope, but he has innate style and always pulls it off." *Mark Wogan, restaurateur*

***GQ* says: Not only has the rapper launched his What We Wear men's line, but he's also doing stellar work representing great British style on his gigs around the world. ››**



19 Tinie TEMPAH

THE TOP 10 WORST Dressed Men In The World

(Remember: self-awareness is the first step to recovery. Don't get mad, get spending...)

Sadly, the old adage is true: cash can buy clothes, but it can't necessarily buy style. Here are the ten men who have fallen sartorially short over the past 12 months...

1 Kit HARINGTON

As one of the world's highest-paid TV actors, the man behind Jon Snow should be one of the best-dressed Brits in Hollywood. Represent, man.

2 Paul Merton

The Nineties might be in vogue right now, but that doesn't explain why the *Have I Got News For You* team captain hasn't changed his look since the show started 28 years ago.

3 Shmee150

A great YouTube channel, but could definitely do better in the wardrobe department. Anyone who manages to make car nuts appear well-dressed has serious issues.

4 Jacob Rees-Mogg

Actually, not even a decent suit and tie combination is enough to fix the Conservatives' most egregiously "man-out-of-time" Brexit tub-thumper. We vote no.

5 Morrissey

The legendary musician who gave us The Smiths idolises James Dean (and once published a book on him). We suggest he takes a leaf out of the American film star's style book.

6 PewDiePie

Considering you rarely see more than the head and shoulders of this YouTuber in his videos, it's quite an achievement to end up on this list.

7 Louis Theroux

It's hard to see how someone who makes such brilliant TV can have such a bland on-screen wardrobe. How many button-down blue shirts can one man own?

8 Marshmello

Reminder: marshmallows also come in pink, blue and green, so maybe switch up the whole all-white-everything routine once in a while?

9 Elon Musk

At least when Hyperloop One opens he'll be able to get to San Francisco's best stores in less than 35 minutes – then he'll have no excuse.

10 Joe Wicks

The Body Coach looks great with his shirt off, but when it comes to covering up his abs and actually wearing clothes, he needs a little more training.

‘Donald champions Seventies glamour and oozes awesomeness’

Grace Gilfeather

18 Donald Glover

Actor and musician

(NEW ENTRY)

“Here is a man truly at the top of his game. As well as producing massive funk-inspired hits under his alias, Childish Gambino, he’s also earning his stripes on the silver screen having starred in *Magic Mike XXL*, *The Martian* and *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, which lands next year. He’s championing the Seventies glamour look on the red carpet at the moment, oozing awesomeness in velvet tailoring and embellished dinner jackets. Equally as effortless on the casual front, he’s been spotted wearing Hawaiian shirts and simple retro sports gear. When I styled him recently, I had a bunch of old sweatshirts and vintage leather jackets that he loved.” *Grace Gilfeather, Fashion Editor, GQ*

***GQ* says: Glover is a master of dressing to stand out from the crowd subtly but effectively (case in point: the brown velvet Gucci suit that he wore to this year’s Golden Globes).**

Photographs **Backgrid; Getty Images; Austin Hargrave/August**

17 Michael Fassbender

Actor

(LAST YEAR No19)

“I admire Michael Fassbender’s outstanding versatility. From *Prometheus* to *Macbeth*, he has the ability to switch from one role to another with ease, always giving incisive and believable performances. I’ve dressed him on various occasions and I like him because he has a very clean personal style. I find him particularly elegant in dark suits with a tie, which highlight his classic yet highly unpredictable charm.” *Giorgio Armani, fashion designer*

***GQ* says:** Fassbender has been repping some seriously good suits on the red carpet this year – a feat made even more impressive by the fact that he doesn’t employ a stylist (unlike many of his peers). ››

15 Lewis HAMILTON

‘When it comes to standing out from the crowd, Lewis rarely breaks a sweat’

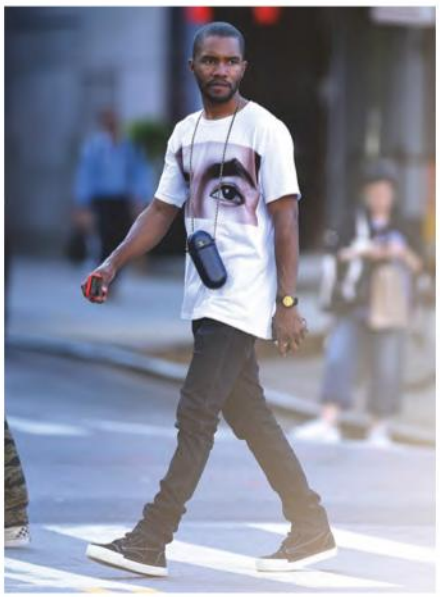
Gary Armstrong

Sportsman

(LAST YEAR No30)

“A regular on the frow at LFWM (for which he serves as a BFC menswear ambassador), the reigning Formula One world champion is no slouch in the wardrobe department either. Lewis Hamilton wears it well because he believes in it – not so much stealth as motor-racer maximalist, with a good eye for accessories and a firm belief that when it comes to standing out from the race weekend paddock crowd, he rarely if ever breaks sweat.
Gary Armstrong

***GQ* says: As quick to leap on the big men’s trends as he is on the track.**



16 Frank Ocean

Musician

(NEW ENTRY)

“Whether it be his ‘Why be racist, sexist, homophobic or transphobic when you could just be quiet?’ Green Box T-shirt and lime-green buzz-cut on the cover of *Blond* or recent drag ball-themed birthday party to which he wore crystallised Gucci leggings, Frank Ocean pushes boundaries and speaks to a generation that does the same.”
Gary Armstrong, Fashion Editor, GQ Style

***GQ* says: Not only did Ocean name his album after summer’s biggest men’s hair trend, but he also wore Vans with his suit to the White House. Now that’s confidence.**

Photographs Camerapress; Getty Images; Splash; Xposurephotos.com

14 Alex TURNER

Musician

(RE-ENTRY)

"Just like the rock'n'roll icons of the Sixties, Alex Turner is the very definition of a style chameleon. He gets our vote because he dares to try new things, switching his style to suit his mood." *The Elicha brothers, founders, The Kooples*

***GQ* says:** The Arctic Monkeys frontman is back on the scene and doing great work to further the cause of skinny jeans in a world of relaxed cuts.

13 Travis SCOTT

Musician

(NEW ENTRY)

"Not since John Lennon has anyone paired psychedelic music so perfectly with rebel style and round sunglasses. Travis Scott's distinctive look works wherever he goes – whether that's a pap shot between gigs or on one of his Lynchian music videos. All you need to know about Scott's entry is that after he was arrested for playing a gig that was simply too hot for the police, his first instinct was to sell a T-shirt bearing a print of his mugshot." *Conrad Quilty-Harper, Editor, GQ.co.uk*

***GQ* says:** Over the past year, Scott's collaborated with Ksubi, Nike and Helmut Lang, covered *GQ Style* and dressed like a badass, all solid reasons for making our list.

12 Dermot O'Leary

Broadcaster

(LAST YEAR No37)

"With a style that demonstrates the modern male's ideal wardrobe, Dermot O'Leary is the model ambassador for British tailoring, while also being able to perfect the smart-casual look that we all aim to achieve." *Thom Whiddett and Luke Sweeney, fashion designers, Thom Sweeney*

***GQ* says:** **Still the best-dressed man in Britain on a Saturday night. ››**

11

Conor McGREGOR

Sportsman

(LAST YEAR No4)

"I follow the ideal that you can wear anything as long as you wear it with confidence. For that reason, I say Conor is one of the best dressed when it comes to fashion. He owns his looks. Smart and simple in a suit or way over the top in a mink coat, he always means it." *Bluey Robinson, musician*

***GQ* says:** Two words: knockout style.

Photographs **Getty Images**

10

Alessandro MICHELE

Designer, Gucci

(NEW ENTRY)

"When the man behind the world's hottest luxury brand, Gucci, dresses like this, you know the ultimate contemporary signal of freedom and creativity is dishevelled dandyism." *Luke Leitch, Contributing Fashion Editor, GQ*

***GQ* says: The man behind the big Gucci revival has overtaken Jared Leto as the best ambassador for its designs. ››**

‘Brooklyn understands fashion and it shows. He is very stylish’

Joana de la Fuente

9 Brooklyn BECKHAM

Influencer

(NEW ENTRY)

“It’s in the Beckham genes to be chic and Brooklyn continues the trend in a personal way. I like his combination of classic and current fashion – the natural way to wear it. He’s also passionate about photography, modelling and stars in campaigns – he understands fashion and it shows. He is very stylish.” *Joana de la Fuente, Fashion Director, GQ Spain*

***GQ* says: He’s continuing his father’s excellent work in the field of menswear for the next generation.**

Photographs **Flynet; Getty Images**

‘Ryan wears smart, sleek separates from seriously cool labels’

Nick Carvell

Ryan REYNOLDS

8

Actor

(NEW ENTRY)

“The thing that sets Ryan Reynolds’ style apart from his red-carpet peers is that it just feels real: it doesn’t feel like he’s wearing something that’s been picked out for him by a stylist. These are smart, sleek separates from seriously cool labels, such as Todd Snyder and Officine Générale, all layered up and worn in a way that any man could in his day-to-day life. Plus, he has excellent glasses. Show me a man who doesn’t want to dress like Ryan Reynolds and I’ll show you a liar.” *Nick Carvell*

GQ says: As a father of two regularly swaddled in Brunello Cucinelli, Reynolds has single-handedly redefined “dad” dressing. ››

Actor

(LAST YEAR No15)

"Whatever the occasion, Riz exudes style and class in droves. In his go-to classic leather bomber and slim chinos, his style is seriously on point. When performing on stage, he proudly combines his heritage and upbringing, styling traditional Pakistani wear with a touch of British street style. On the red carpet, he is a natural, never missing a beat and always sharply dressed in a fashion-forward, slim-silhouetted suit."
Mark Williams, creative director, Ben Sherman

***GQ* says:** Whether he's tuxed-up or in one of his signature colour-block suits, the man never goes rogue on the red carpet.

7 Riz AHMED

'In his go-to bomber and slim chinos, Riz's style is on point'

Mark Williams

6 SKEPTA

Musician

(LAST YEAR No16)

"I've continued to name Skepta as the best-dressed British male for four years now. He continues to evolve as an icon and it's clear to see how his moves, words and look trickle down – and everyone wants to be involved. I hope they all understand he is not a trend: he is an icon of a generation."
Astrid Andersen, fashion designer

'It's clear to see how Skepta's words and look trickle down'

Astrid Andersen

***GQ* says: This year, Skepta's influence on men's fashion hit new heights. Not only did he launch his first fashion line, Mains, but it was also a period that saw his personal style evolve into something more multifaceted and cooler than ever before: the sportswear superfan dabbled more seriously in high fashion. In short, it's the kind of risk-taking, designer-meets-streetwear vibe that's setting the style agenda for men today, both on and off the grime scene. And while his wardrobe might be in a constant state of flux, one thing remains the same: "Dressing like a mess? Nah, that's not me." »**

Photographs Getty Images; Steven Pan/August

‘The Garf is dapper, without the ego’

Jonathan Heaf

5 Andrew GARFIELD

Actor

(NEW ENTRY)

“The Garf used to be, well, a little bit scruffy, didn’t he? Deliberately so. Like he was somehow above style. Or above caring about the clothes he was seen in. Hell, even at his premieres he looked ashamed to be smart; teeth clenched like a nine-year-old in a paisley waistcoat at his great-grandmother’s 95th birthday. Then something happened. He relaxed. Maybe it was the break-up from Emma Stone that forced him to look in the mirror. Or maybe his team employed a decent stylist. Maybe he just googled his name finally. Whatever happened, it’s working. Dapper, without the ego, handsome, without showing off about it. Garf’s new style harmony is all about being a better version of himself.” *Jonathan Heaf, Features Director, GQ*

GQ says: Maybe it’s all the time he’s spent in Britain for *Angels In America* at the National Theatre this year, but Garfield’s been wearing some seriously slick suits. Cheers to that.

Photographs **Getty Images; Instar Images**

4 Harry STYLES

Musician

(LAST YEAR No27)

"I respect his development as a solo artist and think his personal style has matured too. His style looks a lot more personally influenced than that of a stylist."
Grant Pearce, Editorial Director, GQ Asia-Pacific

"Harry is the modern embodiment of British rocker style – edgy, flamboyant and worn with unapologetic swagger."
Michael Kors, fashion designer

***GQ* says:** He's conquered the charts with his debut album, conquered the cinema with his debut film and conquered a flared Gucci suit. No wonder he's made our top ten. ››

‘Jeff is legendary for his getups’

Nick Carvell

3 Jeff GOLDBLUM

Actor

(NEW ENTRY)

“Jeff Goldblum has always been stylish, but this year (as he turned 65) he’s hit his stride. Legendary here at *GQ* HQ for his monochromatic getups (generally involving skinny ties, leather jackets and two-tone loafers), the actor has now embraced colour, print and pattern in a big way – thanks to a couple of seriously good Gucci shopping sprees. Watch out, Jared Leto.” *Nick Carvell*

***GQ* says: The man we all want to dress like when we grow up.**

Photographs **LMK Media; Zumapress.com**

2

A$AP ROCKY

Rapper

(LAST YEAR No20)

"A$AP Rocky has once again taken it upon himself to develop his already fearless style, and this year cemented the fact he wasn't going to let it slip. Sartorial highlights include his Balenciaga look worn at Calvin Klein's Fashion Week show and opening a classic New York bodega grocery store in Selfridges, London, which consisted of a sellout capsule collection. He's no stranger to combining his love of fashion with music – in May 2017, he paid homage to designer and creative director Raf Simons by releasing his track "Raf". Rocky has always been able to keep his hand right on the faucet and by continuing to fuse top-tier designers with cult streetwear, we're sure we'll be seeing more super-bold ensembles from the Harlem rapper very soon." *Carlotta Constant, Acting Style And Grooming Editor, GQ*

GQ says: Whether he's hitting the front row of Dior Homme in head-to-toe Kris Van Assche handiwork or heading to a gig with a new-season Balenciaga bumbag, the man's still a Fashion Killa. ››

'A$AP Rocky continues to fuse top-tier designers with cult streetwear'

Carlotta Constant

Matt SMITH

‘Matt is, quite simply, an original’

Nick Carvell

Actor

(RE-ENTRY)

“Whether it’s his leading role playing Prince Philip in the wildly successful series *The Crown* or landing a gig in Burberry’s most recent ad campaign alongside Cara Delevingne, it’s hard to deny it’s been a stellar year for Matt Smith. However, the reason for the actor topping our annual chart isn’t anything to do with how many views he’s pulled in on Netflix, but that he’s had a supremely stylish 12 months. He is, quite simply, an original – a rare man who can pull off that quintessentially British tailored vibe in a way that not only feels totally genuine, but also totally fresh. He’ll step out in a beautifully cut linen suit in a zingy – but not showy – colour one day, then the next, will arrive at an event in a scoop-neck T-shirt with a rock’n’roll necklace slipped over and a ballsy wool overcoat. In short, Smith wears what the hell he wants and looks superb. And what more do you need than that?” *Nick Carvell*

***GQ* says:** Prince Philip may not be our nation’s solo sovereign, but that doesn’t stop us crowning the actor who plays him. Long live the king! **GQ**

Photograph **James White**

Watt. Presence.

The plug-in hybrid GLE 500 e 4MATIC.

Official government fuel consumption figures in mpg (litres per 100km) for the plug-in hybrid GLE 500 e: Combined 76.4 (3.7) – 85.6 (3.3). CO_2 emissions 84-78g/km.

Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

CLASH *of the* TARTANS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **James White**
STYLING BY **Luke Day**

From princes to punks, the pattern to follow this winter is steeped in heritage and heresy. So who better than The Crown's rebellious royal lead – this year's newly anointed GQ Best-Dressed Man – Matt Smith, to showcase how best to check in this season?

Jacket by **Loewe**, £1,525. At matchesfashion.com

Opposite: Coat, £1,495. Trousers, £425. Both by **Burberry**. burberry.com. Shoes by **Gucci**, £540. gucci.com

Coat by **Paul Smith**, £1,060. paulsmith.com. Rugby shirt, £135. Shirt, £175. Both by **Kent & Curwen**. kentandcurwen.com. Trousers by **Gucci**, £640. gucci.com. Trainers by **Church's**, £275. church-footwear.com. Rings, Matt's own

Coat by **Dolce & Gabbana**, £4,140. dolcegabbana.com. Shirt, £495. Trousers, £495. Both by **Burberry**. burberry.com. Trainers by **Church's**, £275. church-footwear.com

Coat by **Gucci**, £2,500. gucci.com. Jumper by **Kent & Curwen**, £595. kentandcurwen.com. Trousers by **Paul Smith**, £260. paulsmith.com. Trainers by **Church's**, £275. church-footwear.com. Socks by **Falke**. £11. falke.com. Rings, Matt's own

Coat by **Gucci**, £4,040. gucci.com. Shirt by **Polo Ralph Lauren**, £105. ralphlauren.co.uk. Trousers by **Wooyoungmi**, £430. At Harrods. harrods.com. Shoes by **Gucci**, £540. Gucci.com. Scarf by **Comme des Garçons**, stylist's own. Rings, Matt's own

Fashion assistants **Georgia Medley; Emily Tighe**
Grooming **Michael Harding**
Production **Grace Gilfeather**
Lighting assistants **Andras Bartok; Jack Snell**
Digital operator **Mathias Ribe**
Retouching **The Laundry Room GQ**

A smart meter shows you how much energy you're using, to the penny.

Smart meters help you understand how a few simple changes around the home can reduce your energy and lower your monthly bill.

Contact your energy supplier today about getting your smart meter, at no extra cost.

Representative of a typical in-home display. Available in England, Scotland and Wales.

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PRACTICAL
Go on you
However you look after yourself, we have the nutrients,
vitamins and supplements to help you be you.
Visit healthspan.co.uk

HOW TO DEAL WITH TRAUMA *p.166* SIR CHRIS HOY *p.168* PERSONAL TRAINER *p.169* BEAR GRYLLS *p.170*

Get the drift

Take your downhill thrills and skills to the next level with made-to-measure skis for the black run and beyond

STORY BY **Dominic Bliss**

GQ Life

EDITED BY
PAUL HENDERSON

Photograph **Grant Gunderson**

Have you got the white stuff?

You don't need Olympic-level skills to style it out on the slopes. The latest high-performance gear is guaranteed to impress, whether you're on the slopes or après-ski

Hat
by **Spyder**, £37. At Snow And Rock. snowandrock.com

Goggles
by **Zeal Optics**, £95. At matchesfashion.com

T-shirt
by **Volcom**, £30. volcom.co.uk

Jacket
by **The North Face**, £700. At Ellis Brigham. ellis-brigham.com

Ski poles
by **Atomic**, £80. At Ellis Brigham. ellis-brigham.com

Safety first

Wearing a helmet is down to personal preference, but some insurance policies will be invalid if you don't.

Helmet
by **Oakley**, £190. oakley.com

Helmet
by **Giro**, £140. At Ellis Brigham. ellis-brigham.com

Goggles
by **Smith**, £220. At sunglasses-shop.co.uk

Gilet
by **Canada Goose**, £300. canadagoose.com

Gloves
by **Canada Goose**, £125. canadagoose.com

Top
by **Bogner**, £195. At matchesfashion.com

Trousers
by **The North Face**, £200. thenorthface.co.uk

Photograph **Simon Webb** Models **Elliott Reeder and Freddie Abrahams at W Model Management** Grooming **Davide Barbieri at Caren Agency, using Aveda and Bumble And Bumble** Styling **Carlotta Constant**

SNOW SPORTS

The Savile Row of skiing

Every skier is different, as is every slope, so get your sticks tailor-made for you and your favourite piste

"It's like buying a tailored suit," says James Mechie, founder of Nix Snowsport Co, explaining the concept behind his bespoke skis. "We measure your height and weight. Then we find out how you ski, where you ski and on what terrain. This helps us build up a picture of what skis you need." Armed with this information, 28-year-old Mechie designs and builds his customers' skis from scratch in his workshop in Islington, North London. (Nix is Latin for 'snow', by the way.)

Knowledge of the skiing his customers plan to do is crucial in engineering the skis correctly. "Big mountain or powder?" Mechie asks them. "Maybe you're doing ski touring? Maybe you ski late season, so need skis to deal with slushier snow."

He recently had a Japanese customer planning some serious powder skiing who required a customised spoon shape to the tips and tails of his skis. Another customer was a para-skier who kept breaking his pair and needed something sturdier.

Mechie studied industrial design and engineering at university and first worked in domestic automation systems. His one-man manufacturing process at Nix is similar to that of large commercial brands, except he uses extra-light and strong bamboo cores for his skis and boards. Then follows CNC milling, carbon fibre reinforcement, fibreglass layering, steel edges, polyethylene bases and nylon graphics. Finally, the entire sandwich is cured inside a huge press. The process takes up to 20 hours, with a turnaround of three to four weeks.

As you'd expect, prices aren't cheap, starting at £1,375 for a bespoke snowboard or skis, while his Made To Measure range starts at £795 for skis and £495 for a snowboard.

His customers particularly love the option to personalise the graphics. One decorated his board with the road that leads to the French ski resort of Méribel, another applied her own doodles to her skis. Mechie autographs each piece and although the signature is hidden beneath the fibreglass, he has plans to make it visible through a transparent window. He may even embed a microchip into the ski, detailing its technical spec.

It's this attention to detail he believes will ensure the success of Nix. Established in 2013, it has had around 90 orders so far, including two professional skiers. This year, he's sponsoring two French freestyle skiers in a bid to get his brand better known.

There are several bespoke ski manufacturers in America, but Mechie claims to be the only one in the UK exclusively offering custom-made skis. It's a service he believes will appeal to aficionados who want more than factory-made sports equipment.

"You can buy custom-made golf clubs and bicycles. It follows there should be bespoke skis. If you want the best, it's what you do."

Dominic Bliss GQ

nixsnowsports.com

Trousers
by **Norrona**, £430. At Ellis Brigham. ellis-brigham.com

Snowboard
by **Burton**, £470. burton.com

Gloves
by **Oakley**, £65. oakley.com

Bindings
by **Burton**, £220. burton.com

Boots
by **Burton**, £350. burton.com

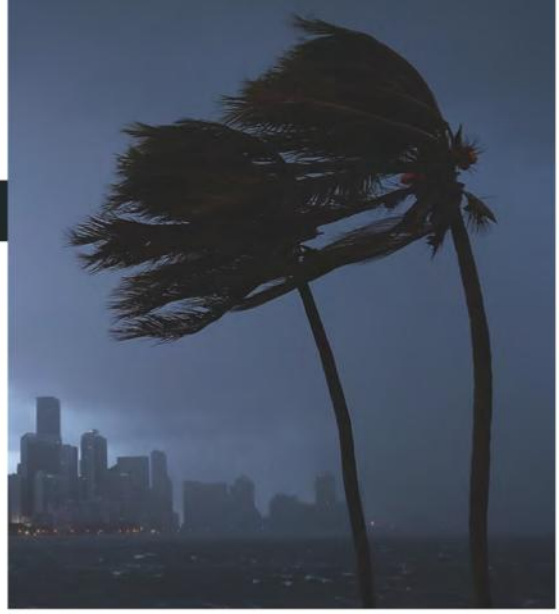
Ski boots
by **Salomon**, £300. At Ellis Brigham. ellis-brigham.com

Skis
by **Salomon**, £440. At Ellis Brigham. ellis-brigham.com

Camera
by **GoPro**, £500. gopro.com

After the event: How to survive the trauma of a major catastrophe

It's not just the terror of an attack or natural disaster, but the fear that follows in its wake. As wellbeing expert Christopher TS Harvey finds, the symptoms of post-traumatic stress can kick in a long time later and further afield than you think



When an act of terror took place within walking distance from me last summer, I knew my perspective on life would never be the same again. I felt something shift in me and it turns out I was not the only one adjusting my perspective during the "year of fear".

Terror is only part of the problem

An act is defined as terrorist if it "appears to have been intended" to intimidate or coerce people. A mass shooting, for example, is not, in itself, an act of terrorism. Indeed, since Donald Trump took office, more Americans have been killed by white American men with no connection to Islam than by Islamist extremists. Trevor Noah, host of *The Daily Show*, insists, "We live in a world where people will put a gun before your lives." The threat is not merely terrorism, the threat is the vulnerability of our species. Whether it be a gun, a van, a bomb or a hurricane, there really is very little we can do to protect ourselves from every eventuality. We can, however, educate ourselves about the inevitable impacts and how to manage our resilience.

Psychological warfare

The world is full of vulnerable, unbalanced individuals attracted to committing a violent act – some fall into organised terrorism, some are lone killers. Terrorist groups such as Isis are quick to seize the opportunity to spread second-hand terror, claiming responsibility for mass shootings when they have little or no connection to the assailant. Why?

The truth is we face a threat whose damage goes beyond the isolated event, whether it be terrorism, mass shootings or natural disasters. Trauma is "any deeply distressing or disturbing experience" and thanks to the "connectivity" of today's society, one of the most damaging impacts of any fatal event is the indirect psychological trauma that ensues among the populous in the hours, days and even years afterwards.

It is not certain that we can we ever fully know the extent of the trauma caused by terrorising and traumatic events. Far more people are impacted by such events than those who experience it first hand. In tragic cases where an individual is killed during a terror attack, often that is only the beginning of the trauma trail.

The consequences of terrorist attacks and natural disasters on people's psychological health cover a wide range, from acute stress symptoms to long-term problems such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The trauma spectrum

Let us get a handle on the manner in which trauma and its symptoms ripple out from the epicentre of a traumatic event – be it planned, such as the attack in June on London Bridge, or not, as when Hurricane Irma hit the Caribbean in October – and how it can affect people at varying degrees of separation.

Police patrol the scene of the terrorist attack on London Bridge on 3 June. It was the third in Britain in as many months

First-hand experience

→ This category relates to witnesses and victims of sudden events that cause an insidious, overwhelming and widespread impact across a large population, the effects of which may include death, injury or property damage.

→ The immediate reaction of survivors is calamity and shock, which at first can manifest as numbness or denial. Eventually, if not immediately, shock gives way to a hyper-emotional state which will often include high levels of anxiety, guilt or depression.

→ Feelings are likely to be very intense and unpredictable.

→ Reactions may also include "survivor guilt" and other PTSD symptoms.

→ Other post-traumatic symptoms reported after such events are work-related, such as affecting an individual's capacity to perform

Photographs Getty Images; LNP; Universal News And Sport

Clockwise from top left: Hurricane Irma led to the largest evacuation in Florida's history in September; on 22 March, Khalid Masood killed five in an attack on Westminster Bridge, London; survivors of the bombing at Manchester Arena on 22 May; visitors to Las Vegas flee from lone gunman Stephen Paddock on 1 October

their professional duties. PTSD can also create difficulty when building or maintaining social relationships. Symptoms such as anger and fear can, in some cases, lead to an increased desire for revenge.

→ When children are involved in sudden, traumatic events, such an experience (up until around the age of eight) can alter their entire cognitive and social development, leading to life-long challenges.

Second-hand experience

→ When family members or close friends become caught up in an unexpected and disturbing situation, there can be real and worrying consequences for those not directly involved with the traumatic event. Victims do not need to have experienced the disaster first hand in order to be psychologically affected.

→ For example, someone living in Cornwall who had relatives at the Ariana Grande concert at the Manchester Arena on 22 May could have been subjected to hours of television coverage, coupled with an inability to get information about their family. This type of situation can have an emotional impact on someone even from afar.

→ Research studies show that many of the acute stress symptoms such as fear and anxiety experienced by those connected to victims decreased over time. However, some of these symptoms can transition into more severe psycho-pathological disorders, depending upon the severity of the trauma experienced and the history of the relationship to the first-hand victim.

Third-hand experience

→ This category relates to the response among the wider population, who experience traumatic events through the media.

→ The general public has been reported to experience acute stress symptoms, such as feelings of fear, horror, helplessness and hyper arousal, even from thousands of miles away. Another symptom is anxiety about the risk of more danger in the future. The mental health outcome for these people affected by trauma, often reported within hours of many crisis events, shows that events such as these can annihilate a sense of security and safety among mass populations.

→ Another effect can be seen among groups from similar racial, ethnic or religious backgrounds to the perpetrators. Such people can suffer a great deal of trauma, especially anxiety, through no fault of their own.

What can we do about it?

Any overwhelming and distressing experience can cause trauma and this trauma is only recognisable by its symptoms. Without the symptoms, would we even know we had a trauma? It's hard to predict when PTSD will set in with a survivor of a traumatic event. Some victims seem perfectly (and unexpectedly) fine at first, only to be beset by symptoms later on out of the blue. The resilience of the individual plays a large part in what materialises.

1 Remain in close contact with loved ones. If you feel emotional, this connection ensures that any sudden and unexpected onset of PTSD can be dealt with swiftly and discreetly.

2 **Model having a positive outlook. Many children take their cues on how to respond in a situation from their parents or other important adults in their life. You can't change stressful events or crises. However, you can try looking beyond the present to how future circumstances may be a little better and by noting subtle ways you might already feel somewhat better as you deal with difficult situations. If you're able to model this for your child it will help them to worry less about the situation or potential threat.**

3 Limit your media exposure to the traumatic event. Don't watch the news or check social media just before bed and refrain from repeatedly viewing disturbing footage. If you want to stay up-to-date on events, read a newspaper rather than watching television or viewing video clips of the traumatic experience.

4 **If coverage makes you feel overwhelmed, take a break from the news entirely. Avoid TV and online news and stop checking social media for a few days or weeks, until your traumatic stress symptoms ease up and you're able to move on.**

5 Don't try to force the healing process. Accept the feelings that come up as totally rational. They will pass if you do not fuel them with too much obsession or negativity.

6 **Challenge your sense of helplessness. Counter your frustration by volunteering for a cause that matters to you. As well as helping you to connect with others, volunteering alleviates the helplessness that contributes to trauma.**

7 Get moving! It might be the last thing you feel like doing when you're experiencing stress, but exercising burns off adrenaline and releases endorphins that help to boost your mood. Done mindfully, exercise rouses your nervous system from that "stuck" feeling and can help you move on from the event.

Getting professional help

Usually, feelings of anxiety, numbness, confusion, guilt and despair following a disaster or traumatic event will start to fade within a relatively short time. However, if your traumatic stress reaction is so intense and persistent that it's getting in the way of your ability to function, you may need help from a mental health professional – as a first port of call I suggest seeing your GP for a chat about your options. PTSD is typically treated with psychotherapy, such as cognitive and exposure therapies, but can also include medication and eye movement desensitisation and reprocessing (EMDR).

Christopher TS Harvey is an executive coach and founder of Harvey Sinclair. harvey-sinclair.com

Buying a bike? Look no further...

With everything you need to know to get the right ride for you, Sir Chris Hoy is here to give you a steer

The popularity of cycling is growing so quickly that you'd be forgiven for thinking that everyone is becoming a two-wheeled convert. But among the questions I get asked most is how should new riders go about buying a bike?

My advice is to think about it carefully. One of the first things to decide upon is your budget. If you go into a bike shop with only a vague idea, you will invariably end up spending more than you want to. Be strict with yourself, because you have to remember that when you buy a bike you will have to buy all that goes with it: spare inner tubes (because you will get punctures), a bike pump, comfortable clothing, a waterproof jacket, new pedals, a helmet, cycling shoes... All these things will make a massive difference to your riding experience, but the costs do add up, so remember to budget for the whole package.

The best advice is to be sensible. Choosing a bike that looks good but is cheap and poorly made will not only be uncomfortable, but it could very well be unsafe and end up putting you off cycling rather than turning you on to it.

Once you've established your budget, you need to decide what you principally want to use your bike for. Do you want it for commuting? To take part in races or sportives? Is it just for weekend riding with friends or family?

1 If you want a good all-round bike, one of the best options is a hybrid: it's perfect for both city and leisurely riding. A good hybrid will be lightweight and quick, but it should also be comfortable and more stable than a road bike. They're also designed to give you a more upright riding position.

2 If you're after a pure commuter bike, these tend to be heavier and sturdier, to cope with the lumps and bumps of busy roads. Again, they are more upright and have more robust components (most commuters don't mind sacrificing speed and sharp lines for reliability and utilitarian comfort).

3 If you want to take your riding more seriously, go for a road bike. Traditionally they are very light, have thin, smooth tyres, curved handlebars and tend to be a fast, firm ride.

4 Mountain bikes are for off-road riding and have big, chunky tyres, a front- and possibly rear-suspension system and straight handlebars for better control.

Once you've chosen your desired style, do your homework: look at online reviews, talk to cyclists you know, seek advice and recommendations. And then find out more at your local bike shop. As with any sales person, you can usually tell pretty quickly if they know and are passionate about what they are selling or if they're just trying to get you to buy the most expensive bike they can. (Personally, I am an ambassador for Evans Cycles and I have always found it to be a reliable and trustworthy source for the average bike buyer.) But the best thing to establish is if the person selling you the bike is a keen rider themselves. You will get much better advice from someone who rides than from someone who is just there to process payment.

Buying online is a trickier proposition. Yes, you can get some great deals buying a bike off the internet, but usually they need to be assembled and adjusted when you get them home, which a lot of people aren't comfortable with. I've even seen people riding bikes with their front forks the wrong way round, because that was how it was when it came out of the box. And if you get problems with a bike bought online, it can be a real headache trying to get an issue resolved.

If you buy from a bike shop, you can take the cycle for a test ride. Those at the shop will set the bike up for you and make sure the position is right and that you are comfortable. Because when you get a new bike it should be adjusted to suit you – from seat angle and height to handlebar position, these things are vital. You can have the best, most expensive bike in the world but if it isn't altered to fit you, it just won't be comfortable to ride. You can also develop a relationship with the people who work there which can be helpful as you may wish to return for repairs or a bike service.

Don't get taken for a ride

If you are serious about cycling and you want to buy a pricier bike, my advice is not to spend more than £2,000. Some bikes can cost £5,000-£10,000, but you shouldn't be conned into thinking you have to spend silly amounts of money. A good £1,500-bike will be able to do 99 per cent of the things one costing five times as much can. Alternatively, if you just want something basic, you can pick up a second-hand bike for a few hundred pounds.

Frame game: Ask an expert to adjust the seat and handlebars to suit your body

This month

If you only do one exercise, make it...

The kettlebell burpee with deadlift

This Frankenstein workout move is a combination of that staple of high-intensity interval training the burpee (a brilliant way to build endurance) and a deadlift (for whole body strength and power). Enjoy!

Jonathan Goodair
jonathangoodair.com

Shorts, £43. Trainers, £140. Socks, £12. All by **Nike**. nike.com

Perform 3 sets of 15 reps with 60 seconds' rest between sets.

1

Preparation

Begin standing with a kettlebell in each hand. The weight of the kettlebells should be challenging but still allow you to maintain good form.

2

Burpee

Maintain a flat back, bend knees and push hips back until thighs are parallel to the floor.

Place kettlebells on floor just outside feet. With hands on floor, jump feet backward and perform one perfect push-up. Then jump feet forward between hands.

3

Deadlift

Take a moment to pick up the kettlebells. Ensure back is flat and head is up. Drive through the hips and thighs, keeping back straight. Perform deadlift to return to start position.

Photographs **Tom Cockram; Ben Riggott** Grooming **Samantha Cooper** Model **Paul Knops at W Model Management**

WELLNESS

Wake up, be present

Christmas is a wonderful time: we get to kick back, hang out with our families and celebrate the joy of life. For many, work stops for what seems like an eternity and yet others of us go back feeling exhausted and unfulfilled.

Festivities are packed full of traditions, things we do in the same way year in, year out. It's what makes Christmas *Christmas*. But it's also what often makes it a rather empty experience.

It is estimated that we live around 80 per cent of our lives on autopilot, which is triggered when we do things that are familiar or habitual. It's the brain's way of saving energy.

When it comes to something we have experienced before, such as driving a car, our brain assumes it's exactly the same and therefore demands you do what you did last time. The downside is that our brain slips on to autopilot when we don't need it.

As Christmas is charged with routine, it therefore welcomes autopilot in. During this time, we revert to childhood habits in the bosom of our loving family and friends, as well as overeating and drinking much more than we should. We may as well feed ourselves tranquillisers.

To stay awake this year, break the rules. Make a pledge to feel fitter after the holiday than before. Don't give presents, give time. Don't have a big roast, eat shellfish. Don't watch TV, make something creative. Don't stay in, go for an adventure.

This year, wake up and make memories.

Chris Baréz-Brown
uppingyourelvis.com

BEAR GRYLLS: #31

Age is just a number – it's experience that counts

Pumping weights and running marathons won't help you beat Father Time. Instead, choose the battles that make you grow wiser

Many people see ageing as something to fear or regret. On the surface, there is little fun about a body returning ever-diminishing levels of everything we hold dear, from looks to performance to health. But I see getting older as something to embrace.

My son Huckleberry likes to count the lines on my face and the crow's feet around my eyes. I like to tell him how each one of those lines holds an adventure, a memory, a friendship, an achievement, a lesson and an experience, which is why I like them.

We all have our physical quirks (my nose gets increasingly wonky with the years and my left foot is so mashed it is ridiculous), but all these things remind me that I'm a survivor. Think of it like this: over the hundreds of thousands of years that we have existed, the average human rarely lived much beyond the age of 35. When you make it past that age, you're already in the elite.

The other aspect to ageing, for me, is that all my near-death experiences have made me incredibly grateful for life. Those that haunt me are not always the dramatic, well-documented ones. For example, when I was preparing to paraglide over Everest

Chute to kill: A near-fatal paragliding accident when preparing to fly over Everest in 2007 didn't stop Bear Grylls taking to the sky, 2016

I did a test flight in the UK with our new supercharged paramotor. The director who was filming the mission asked me to do a second flight so he could get one final shot. My instinct was to say no, but I agreed and foolishly made the flight without a reserve chute. When the filming helicopter passed in front of me, at 3,000 feet, I flew straight through its wake, somersaulted over the top of the parachute and started tumbling to the ground with half the chute wrapped round itself. The paramotor smashed as I hit the ground, but somehow I survived. I remember being curled up on the ground in the middle of a field, tears filling my eyes, knowing I should have died, that I'd been stupid and incredibly lucky. And not for the first time.

Such moments remind me that life is a gift never to be taken for granted. Our response should be gratitude and joy. My Christian faith also reminds me that we are on a journey and we shouldn't fear the road. I've had my fair share of scars and bruises and I don't regret any. (Well, maybe the odd one.)

The paramotor smashed as I hit the ground, but I somehow survived. It reminded me life is never to be taken for granted

With age, however, we need to develop an awareness of our bodies' limitations and keep ourselves injury-free as far as we can. I found it inspirational spending some time in the wild with Roger Federer, who even towards the end of his career is outperforming and outlasting so many younger players. We agreed that it's all about pacing yourself; about understanding, as my mum always used to say, that life is a marathon, not a sprint.

I try to incorporate this attitude into my own training by making it sustainable. Pumping massive weights all day or doing ultramarathons is never going to be good for your body in the long term. The extremes aren't good for longevity. That's why I train using short, sharp 30-minute bodyweight-type exercises that keep me lean, fit and flexible. This approach is important for ensuring that you can still adventure as you get older. (I've written a book about this, called *Your Life: Train For It*, which explains the approach in more detail.)

In life, as in the wild, we have to choose our battles. The battle against ageing is one we are never going to win, so don't fight it too hard. Instead, see the years as a chance to gather wisdom and skills, friendships and experiences. See it as an opportunity to grow braver, kinder, more resourceful, more sensitive and more respectful as each year passes. These are qualities that can only be developed with age. Embrace that.

The Bible talks about our bodies being like clay jars "which are wasting away on the outside, so it often looks like things are falling apart on us. But on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without His unfolding grace." That's a great promise to hold on to as we get ever older. **GQ**

For more, visit beargrylls.com

Photograph **Getty Images**

Haig Club cocktails

Toby Huntington-Whiteley and Elliot Meeten

Reggie Yates

Shakka Philip, Yasmin Evans and Bluey Robinson

About town with Style

Last month we clinked glasses to celebrate the launch of GQ Style AW17 with the ever-sophisticated Haig Club. The event was held at 18montrose, a state-of-the-art concept store located in the heart of King's Cross, which was buzzing with the who's who of the fashion world.

Tom Daley

Fleur East

GQ Style's covers on display at 18montrose

GQ PREVIEW

GIFT GUIDE 2017

EDITED BY **HOLLY ROBERTS**

From luxury home accessories you never knew you needed to the gadgets you simply won't be able to travel without, here is our guide to the ultimate must-haves – whether you're buying for someone special or treating yourself. **The good news? We've done all the hard work for you**

With a new year rapidly approaching, our thoughts turn to the little ways we can improve our lives. That's why there's never been a better time to start getting serious about your skincare. Too often, we can all be guilty of taking our skin for granted and forgetting that, just like us, it needs water to stay fresh and healthy. Fortunately, Clinique For Men has got just what you need to solve this problem. Its Maximum Hydrator Activated Water-Gel Concentrate is a fragrance-free moisturiser, which offers great long-lasting hydration and a mix of genuinely replenishing ingredients to give you stronger, smoother feeling skin. The innovative liquid-sphere technology works to help break the cycle of dryness and environmental stress that can leave your skin looking older than it really is. Like all Clinique For Men products, it's been fully allergy tested and dermatologically tested so you can rest easy knowing your skin is in the best possible hands. Adding Maximum Hydrator Activated Water-Gel Concentrate to your daily routine is a New Year's resolution your skin will thank you for. *clinique.co.uk/mens*

Charcoal Face Wash 200ml, £18. Maximum Hydrator Activated Water-Gel Concentrate 48ml, £34. Anti-Fatigue Eye Gel 15ml, £25. Aloe Shave Gel 125ml, £15. All by **Clinique For Men**. clinique.co.uk

So fresh, so clean

Banish dryness with the Maximum Hydrator Activated Water-Gel Concentrate by Clinique For Men

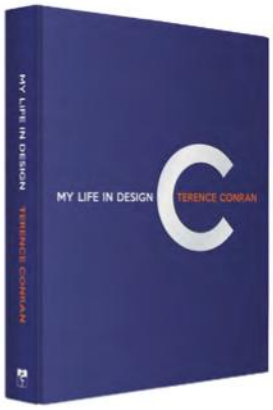
Candle by **Byredo**, £54. byredo.com

Wireless music system by **KEF**, £2,000. kef.com

Throw by **Missoni**, £275. At selfridges.com

Vase by **Tom Dixon**, £100. tomdixon.net

My Life In Design by **Terance Conran**, £30. conranshop.co.uk



Tumbler set by **LSA**, £38. At selfridges.com

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FOR THE HOME

Veuve Clicquot Extra Brut Extra Old, £69. At clos19.com

Sparkling wine stopper by **Le Creuset**, £30. lecreuset.co.uk

RAR chair by **Eames**, £465. At conranshop.co.uk

DAB Radio by **Ted Baker**, £199. tedbaker.com

Best foot foward

Stride into the new year with confidence in the classic Boston clog from Birkenstock

There's something pleasing about having a pair of clogs that you can just slip on with ease, but that still offer the comfort and hard-wearing durability of a good pair of shoes. That's exactly what's made Birkenstock's Boston clog such a classic of design. This year, the stylish upper is now available in soft suede or oiled leather. Whichever option you choose, what every pair shares is Birkenstock's iconic, trademarked and copyrighted footbed that offers unrivalled comfort and support. An icon since it was first designed in the Thirties, the footbed is made by layering different materials to create a sole that's like walking on air. First, there's a shock absorbent sole which is followed by two layers of jute fibres and a firm-corked footbed. Finally, the footbed lining is made from a soft suede so that it adjusts to the shape of your feet. And here you thought Birkenstock was for summer only. So much more than sandals, this footwear brand boasts closed and comfortable winter wear options that stand out. *birkenstock.com*

Boston Soft Footbed by **Birkenstock**, £85. birkenstock.com or 24 Neal St, London WC2H 9QW

Hannah Martin Grand Explorer Martini Set by **Grey Goose**, £695. At selfridges.com

Bomber Jacket by **Philipp Plein**, £62,560. plein.com

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BLOW THE BUDGET

Suitcase by **Fendi x Rimowa**, £2,000. fendi.com

Turntable by **Master & Dynamic x Ermenegildo Zegna**, £2,870. At harrods.com

Sunglasses by **Louis Vuitton**, £515. louisvuitton.com

iWatch charging dock by **Native Union**, £135. At harveynichols.com

Fucking Fabulous Eau De Parfum 250ml by **Tom Ford**, £485. tomford.com

Bike by **Dior Homme**, £2,400. dior.com

Bag of tricks

It's strange to think that we all used to be chained to our desks. These days, many of us are lucky enough to be able to work wherever inspiration hits. Whether you come up with your best ideas while sitting outside, or in a coffee shop, or while travelling, all you need to do is throw your laptop and a few essentials in a bag and go. Your backpack becomes your very own portable office, and there's no more stylishly designed digs than the Duke Nappa backpack by MCM. Ever since it was founded in 1976 in Munich, MCM has been leading the game when it comes to luxury leather goods. Its Duke backpack is no exception, expertly crafted with an ergonomically conscious design that makes it perfect for throwing over your shoulder each day. *mcmworldwide.com*

Gather up your things and hit the road in style with MCM this holiday season

Eight Christmas jumpers you'll actually want to wear

From budget to blowout, we've found the best festive jumpers sure to put a smile on the face of any scrooge

Jumper by **Alexander McQueen**, £1,775. At harrods.com

Jumper by **Daks**, £175. daks.com

Jumper by **Dsquared2**, £430. dsquared2.com

Jumper by **John Smedley**, £125. johnsmedley.com

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Jumper by **Kent & Curwen**, £355. kentandcurwen.com

Jumper by **Prada**, £1,450. prada.com

Jumper by **Pringle of Scotland**, £1,595. At farfetch.com

Jumper by **Paul Smith**, £325. paulsmith.com

Sharpen up

Kit yourself out for everyday adventures with the Victorinox range that's as versatile as its iconic Swiss Army Knives

I.N.O.X. Titanium Sky High, £715. Wine Master, £135. Swiss Army Rock Fragrance, £47. All by **Victorinox**. victorinox.com

We all know it pays to be prepared. That's why Victorinox has come up with a whole range of tools designed to make your life easier, whatever situation you find yourself in. Take the Wine Master for example, which takes all the lessons Victorinox has learned from its timeless Swiss Army Knives and puts it into an elegant, superbly designed corkscrew bottle opener that's really the only thing a good bottle of wine should be opened with. Then there's the Sky High I.N.O.X. watch, a timepiece that was inspired by and integrates modern space tech such as the Technora paracord straps which helped land the Mars Rover. Each watch also comes with a special edition white Swiss Army Knife with an astronaut metal inlay, a replica of the knife that has long served as astronaut's standard equipment. Of course, being prepared also means ensuring you smell great, which is where Victorinox's award-winning Swiss Army Rock fragrance comes in. Its multifaceted scent of artemisia and nutmeg is crowned by the freshness of lavender, bringing to mind exactly the sort of unforgettable experiences in distant countries that you'll want to be prepared for. *victorinox.com*

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Live life well®

"I've been taking Wellman since my twenties to support my health and hectic lifestyle."

David Gandy

Made in Britain

VITABIOTICS

From Boots, Superdrug, supermarkets, Holland & Barrett, health stores, pharmacies

*UK's No1 men's supplement brand. Nielsen GB ScanTrack Total Coverage Unit Sales 52 w/e 9 September 2017.

THIS MONTH: WINTER READS *p.183* THE U2 EXPERIENCE *p.184* POLITICAL PREDICTIONS *p.187* STREAMING'S GREAT RUN *p.188*

THE GQ DROP

Art, Music, Sport, Politics, Films, Literature + the best opinion for the month ahead

Keep it surreal

Advances in technology are shaping the ways artists see – and create – new work. GQ joins British concept king Jonathan Yeo in the vanguard of VR

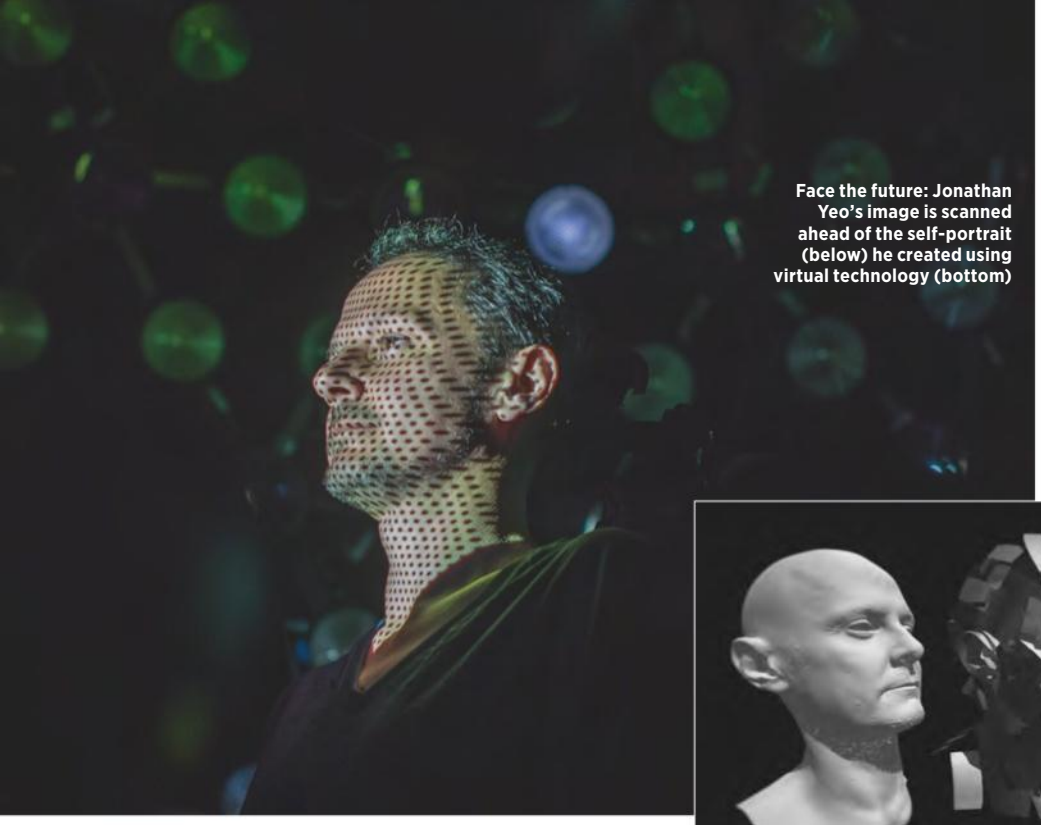
STORY BY **Sophie Hastings**

On now

Artist Rooms: Joseph Beuys

Where: Leeds Art Gallery **When:** Until 21 January **Why:** Designed to introduce Joseph Beuys' sculptural language and "constellations of ideas" to a new generation, this exhibition includes vitrines of objects relating to his performances, as well as works on paper from Tate's Artist Rooms collection. SH *leeds.gov.uk*

EDITED BY **Bill Prince**



Face the future: Jonathan Yeo's image is scanned ahead of the self-portrait (below) he created using virtual technology (bottom)

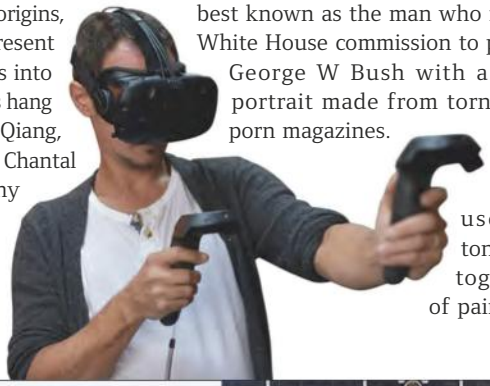
ART

Portrait of a hacker

By replacing canvas and palette with 3-D printing and VR headsets, artist Jonathan Yeo is entering another dimension and blurring the lines between real and virtual

STORY BY **Sophie Hastings**

In celebration of its 250th birthday, The Royal Academy Of Arts, one of London's most important art galleries, explores the historic practice of life drawing in a revolutionary way. Beginning with the Academy's 18th-century origins, *From Life* continues to the present and, most intriguingly, moves into the future. Historical paintings hang alongside works by Cai Guo-Qiang, Jenny Saville, Michael Landy, Chantal Joffe, Gillian Wearing, Antony Gormley and Jonathan Yeo. But for the first time, the RA is supporting several of these artists in their use of emerging technologies. Ongoing developments in virtual reality and 3-D printing present artists with new ways to observe and represent themselves and their subjects, and Jonathan Yeo is at the vanguard of this brave new art world.



Yeo has always drawn from life and is best known as the man who responded to a White House commission to paint President George W Bush with a *trompe l'oeil* portrait made from torn-up Seventies porn magazines. Series of porn collages followed, which used the flesh tones of the photographs instead of paint, before "the material ran out since iPads killed the industry". Yeo went on to paint bodies undergoing plastic surgery, because "Cosmetic surgery tells you so much about people, their sense of identity, their insecurities… and society's ideals of beauty."

Recently, Yeo began to explore the possibilities of technology out of "idle curiosity", visiting Google, Facebook, Apple and various independent tech companies in the US, where he saw "all kinds of things that blew me away". Google suggested his Central London studio become the UK testing ground for its new art software, Tilt Brush. Once it was installed, Wearing and Gormley came to play. "Tilt Brush gives you this incredible freedom to draw what you want. You don't have to plan before you start, you put your headset on, pick up your tools and make marks, change them, delete them, it's like oil painting. Gormley said, 'This is great but I want to see what I've made, I want it to be real.' We thought how amazing it would be to 3-D print our VR drawings, to freeze those marks and create a completely new medium for making things."

The software didn't exist, so Yeo went to see Pangolin, the foundry used by artists including Damien Hirst, who agreed to see what they could do. Meanwhile, the artist-led tech company Otoy, which specialises in rendering for special effects, offered to scan one of Yeo's subjects so that he could paint it in VR. "I decided to make it my head, so I could walk around myself, which is something self-portraitists have never been able to do. I could see myself from every angle and paint my head from life." These VR works are now sculptures, 3-D printed at Pangolin, and include the first physical free-standing sculpture in metal made using Tilt Brush. *From Life* reveals the processes behind Yeo and his fellow artists' tech-inspired works, while Sky Arts has commissioned a documentary about them, *Virtual Reality: Mystery Of Creativity*. An art-historical moment, this one. GQ

From Life is at The Royal Academy Of Arts, London, 11 December – 11 March 2018. royalacademy.org

Photographs Molly Bythell/Mall Galleries; Mark Cocksedge/London Art Fair; Frances Willoughby/Mall Galleries; Jonathan Yeo Studio

DON'T MISS

17 Jan

What: London Art Fair at Business Design Centre
When: Until 21 January
Why: Once written off as Frieze's aged relative, London's 30-year-old art fair is increasingly contemporary and ever more global with the much-acclaimed sections Photo 50, Art Projects and Dialogues, its programme of five gallery collaborations, curated by Adnan Yildiz.
londonartfair.co.uk

6 Jan

What: *Revolt & Revolutions* at Yorkshire Sculpture Park
When: Until 15 April
Why: Works inspired by the counterculture and anti-establishment movements of recent decades are shown alongside current pieces by artists who want to make a difference, including Ruth Ewan's "A Jukebox Of People Trying To Change The World" (2003).
ysp.org.uk

18 Jan

A Long Way From Home by Peter Carey

Opening in 1953, Carey's latest novel (*Faber, £17.99*) features a family road trip inspired by the "Redex Australia" rallies, known for their amateur component, wherein vehicles nowhere near up to the task traverse some of the planet's most inhospitable terrain. Carey's most visceral novels are set in his homeland. What could possibly go wrong? **OC**

BOOKS

Chillers, thrillers and atomic killers

From a worrying chronicle of the front line of America's nuclear weapons programme to the confessions of Miami's 'cocaine cowboys' via spy stories worth coming in from the cold for, this season's gifted literary talents deliver a reading list with absolutely no filler

STORY BY **Olivia Cole**

As Steven Spielberg's *The Post* takes a look at whistle-blower Daniel Ellsberg's role in the release of the Pentagon Papers, the man himself releases *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions Of A Nuclear War Planner* (*Bloomsbury, £20*), his account of the US's atomic programme.

Following his 2012 reappraisal of the Profumo scandal, *An English Affair*, Richard Davenport-Hines brings fresh eyes to the espionage drama surrounding Blunt, Burgess, Cairncross, Maclean and Philby in *Enemies Within: Communists, Spies And The Making Of Modern Britain* (*William Collins, £25*). And, if that doesn't provide you with enough spies, *Need To Know* (*Bantam Press, £20*), by former CIA analyst turned novelist Karen Cleveland, poses the idea of being married to a Russian sleeper agent. The film rights have already been snapped up by Charlize Theron, making this an early contender for next year's *Gone Girl*. As is *Girl In Snow* by Danya Kukafka (*Picador, £18*), a creepy, psychological drama set in a snowbound Colorado high school.

> Enemies Within brings fresh eyes to the espionage drama surrounding Blunt, Burgess and Philby

If you prefer your winter reading material to take you to the tropics, check in to Roben Farzad's *Hotel Scarface* (*Bantam Press, £25*), documenting the rise of "cocaine cowboys" amid the glamour of Miami in the Seventies. Part biography of a hotel (Hotel Mutiny was the inspiration for the Babylon Club in *Scarface*), part elegant true-crime thriller, this is the ideal read for a South Beach winter sun lounger.

Finally, in the new collection of essays, *Feel Free* (*Penguin, £20, out 8 February*), Zadie Smith is indispensable on the way we live now, from social media to Brooklyn rappers, global warming to libraries. (Remember them?) **GQ**

9 Jan

What: *FBA Futures* at Mall Galleries
When: Until 20 January
Why: Showcasing the work of recent art graduates selected from across the country by the Federation Of British Artists, this is the place to get your eye in and spot the art world's newest rising stars. **SH**
mallgalleries.org.uk

POLITICS

Ten things that won't happen in 2018

It's a brave pundit who makes political predictions these days. Enter, our man in Westminster...

STORY BY **Alex Wickham**

1. **The Brexit talks will not get easier...**
Don't buy the spin that progress will accelerate in the new year. You will hear the words "deadlock", "stalemate" and "impasse" for months to come. And don't rule out a walkout along the way...

2. **...But we won't crash out with no deal**
When push comes to shove, money talks. The UK will agree to pay a generous Brexit bill in order to secure a deal at the crunch EU summit in October. Some Brexiteers will grumble but most will get on board.

3. **Theresa May won't stay prime minister**
Top Tories say May is one crisis away from resigning and she won't get through the next 12 months unscathed. The clamour from rivals with eyes on the throne will prove too much. We'll have a new PM this year.

4. **There won't be a general election**
The Tories aren't mad enough to call another election and risk a Jeremy Corbyn win. Even in the event of a change of PM they will resist calls to go to the country.

5. **The Tories won't recover in London**
Any hope the Tories have of a resurgence in the capital will be dashed during the local elections on 3 May. Expect blue councils to turn red and Labour's vote share to go up. London is a Corbynista stronghold.

6. **They won't be singing 'Oh, Jeremy Corbyn' at festivals this year...**
The novelty that galvanised young voters last June will wear off and Jezza will struggle to keep it alive when he turns 69 in the spring.

7. **...But Corbyn's heir won't be found**
The Tory contest for next leader will play out as various candidates jostle for position. Yet over in the red corner Corbyn will stay as leader with no obvious successor. They need a bright spark to carry the Corbyn flame, but there's a dearth of talent on the Labour left.

8. **Growth won't turn negative**
Remember those warnings that there'd be a recession in the aftermath of the Leave vote? It didn't happen this year and it won't happen next year either. That said, the economy is in a precarious position and we can expect growth to slow.

9. **Vince Cable won't last as the Lib Dem leader**
He hasn't had the best of starts in the hotseat and as the Brexit battle gets serious there'll be calls for a young, dynamic leader. It might be best for everyone if Cable agrees to hand over of power.

10. **There won't be a nuclear war**
Sabre-rattling between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-Un will remain a war of words. If things do escalate to Armageddon, at least no one will be around to say I was wrong. **GQ**

25 Jan

The Monk Of Mokha by Dave Eggers

Eggers' first nonfiction book in almost a decade (*Hamish Hamilton, £18.99*) is a biography of Muslim-American Mokhtar Alkhanshali, who became a coffee entrepreneur in Yemen – only to find himself caught up in the civil war. OC

MUSIC

A matter of life and near-death

After a 'brush with mortality', Bono and U2 began work on the follow-up to 2014's Songs Of Innocence. Drawing on three decades of personal and political growth it's a brilliant autumnal rock requiem that explores love, war and the lost art of letter-writing

STORY BY **Dorian Lynskey**

It has been a year of comings and goings. The Maccabees played their final shows. Wild Beasts announced theirs. A Tribe Called Quest called time on their glorious but short-lived comeback. In the other direction, LCD Soundsystem released a new album six years after their "farewell" gig, while Grizzly Bear and Fleet Foxes returned after potentially terminal hiatuses. Bands are volatile compounds and keeping them stable is hard.

In this respect, like so many others, U2 are unusual. Whatever you think of them, they are one of rock music's few immovable objects. That's partly because of their unshakeable influence on the sound and presentation of stadium rock. Even their apparent follies end up changing the music industry. The 20th anniversary of PopMart might not have received a sliver of the attention granted the 30th birthday of *The Joshua Tree*, but that tour pioneered the giant LED screens we now take for granted. More than that, they have become archetypal. The template of four school friends who share songwriting credits, make democratic decisions, refrain from solo albums and endure for decades is an ideal that very few bands have managed to emulate.

It's disconcerting, then, to find that *Songs Of Experience*, their 14th album, is the first to have a whiff of autumn – a sense of settling accounts while there is still time. Bono began writing the lyrics while recuperating from a bicycle accident and last year experienced what The Edge called "a brush with mortality". According to Bono, the advice of Irish poet Brendan Kennelly ("Write as if you're dead") inspired this album of songs in the form of letters – to his family, the US, himself – that get to the heart of the matter.

Songs Of Innocence was a movingly autobiographical album buried beneath an avalanche of bad press about its iCloud-infiltrating release (one U2 innovation that nobody wants to copy). The sequel takes the advice of one of its songs: "Get Out Of Your Own Way". Made with half a dozen producers, from Steve Lillywhite to Lamb's Andy Barlow, it's a warm, agile record that speaks to various phases of U2's career: the earnest rallying cries of *War*, the panoramic soul-searching of *The Joshua Tree*, the politicised disco-rock of the Zoo TV era. Conversely, "Love Is Bigger Than Anything In Its Way" confirms that U2 are weakest when they sound like younger bands who try to sound like U2.

Mere immortals: The band perform songs from their first album, Boy, on The Tube, 1980

NEW RELEASES

Paloma Faith
The Architect
(RCA) Out now

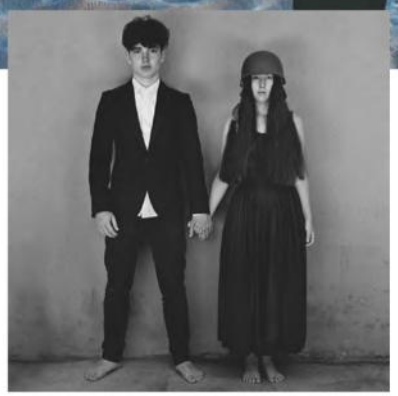
Inspired by Marvin Gaye's masterpiece *What's Going On*, Paloma Faith delivers an album of deft, empathetic and catchy protest songs that brings together John Legend and Owen Jones for the first (and probably last) time. Her most outspoken album is also her best.

Mavis Staples
If All I Was Was Black
(Anti) Out now

A veteran of the civil rights movement wrestles with the United States' dire backsliding with help from Wilco's Jeff Tweedy, whose steely, soulful songs speak to Mavis Staples' lifetime of moral rectitude ("We Go High") and resilience ("No Time For Crying").

Belle and Sebastian
How To Solve Our Human Problems
(Matador) Out on 8 December

Twenty years after classic EPs such as *Lazy Line Painter Jane*, the on-a-roll Glaswegians revive the format with a trio of five-trackers that give them freedom to roam from core-values indie-pop. DL



Sands of time: U2's Songs Of Experience (right), is the band's 14th studio album

The most interesting sound on *Songs Of Experience* is that of Bono beating himself up. He's often labelled an egomaniac by people who aren't really listening, but he's long been a stern self-critic, not afraid to vent the inner voice that wonders if he's full of himself after all. Doubt and guilt are the wellspring of *Achtung Baby* in particular. This album is shot through with accusations of shallowness, arrogance, misguided ambition, careless talk and all the parts of himself he finds insufferable "at four in the morning, where all the darkness is swarming", mingled with gratitude towards those who love him anyway. Even "You're The Best Thing About Me", a buoyant love song to his wife, Ali, throws in a stark twist: "The best things are easy to destroy."

> The advice of Irish poet Brendan Kennelly – 'Write as if you're dead' – inspired Songs Of Experience

This being a U2 album, there are allusions to Syria, the refugee crisis and the state of the US, but the tone is soulful and tender rather than strident. The political and personal songs converge on the importance, and difficulty, of finding light in the darkness. It feels as if Bono is pulling the lessons of a lifetime into sharp focus.

You could hear it as a final report. On "The Little Things That Give You Away", a thematic centrepiece framed as an argument with his younger self, he sings, "Sometimes the end is not coming/It's not coming/The end is here." Then again, when I looked up the Kennelly quote I found that Bono first said, "Write as if you're dead" back in 1999. Perhaps it's contemplating the end that keeps U2 going. **GQ**

Songs Of Experience is out now.

Photographs Anton Corbijn; Rex

MUSIC

The best albums of the year

Kendrick Lamar
Damn
It's rare that the year's biggest album is also its best. Rare, too, to follow a cultural landmark with a record that's harder but equally great.

St Vincent
Masseduction
Annie Clark's fifth album is her most irresistibly direct by far, musically and emotionally. A new peak for an art-rock virtuoso.

Wolf Alice
Visions Of A Life
The London band's textbook second album expands their sound in myriad directions, hitting every indie-rock pleasure point.

Father John Misty
Pure Comedy
Josh Tillman's fearlessly dense and provocative attempt to grapple with the pains, perversities and vital consolations of human nature.

LCD Soundsystem
American Dream
Unable to retire after all, James Murphy returns: sadder and wiser but no less adept at locating the perfect punk-funk groove or lancing one-liner.

The XX
I See You
A great escape for a band who seemed to be stuck in a cul-de-sac. Bolder and brighter, the trio's tender intimacies sound even better on the dancefloor.

Perfume Genius
No Shape
Mike Hadreas' talent achieves full bloom on a rapturously lush fourth album whose transcendent beauty feels like a matter of life and death.

Lorde
Melodrama
Pop's smartest teenager grows up, charting the ecstasies and anxieties of young adulthood with a sharp eye and a heart full to bursting.

Vince Staples
Big Fish Theory
A true hip hop maverick, Staples hooks his flinty, sobering rhymes to a rollercoaster of house, two-step and electro. Party music with a heavy heart.

The Horrors
V
It's V as in five, but it could be V for Victory. Aided by producer Paul Epworth, the psychedelic rave-goths reach majestic new heights. **DL**

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6 Dec

Hamilton: An American Musical opens in London

Lin-Manuel Miranda's Pulitzer Prize-winning, eleven Tony Award-nabbing Broadway smash finally reaches the shores of Blighty with its musical mission to explain the life and times of American founding father Alexander Hamilton. If you haven't got a ticket, download the original cast recording (available on iTunes) and discover for yourself the appeal of the world's most celebrated "hip hop musical". *hamiltonthemusical.co.uk*

POLITICS

Come what May, the PM will go...

But the question remains, who can the Tories choose as an acceptable successor? With the party still wrestling to reconcile its differences over Brexit, only one candidate ticks all the boxes

STORY BY **Matthew d'Ancona**

So the plan goes something like this: Conservative moderates accept that Theresa May cannot fight the next general election and must step down in good time to allow the new party leader and prime minister to settle in. But they also doubt that a contender who backed Remain in the EU referendum can win the race to succeed May before Britain has formally exited the EU at the end of March 2019. A conundrum, you'd agree.

Their candidate of choice is Amber Rudd, the home secretary. Though Ruth Davidson, the party's leader in Scotland, has won a devoted (and merited) following, she is not a minister in the UK government. At present, many Tory MPs who believe that she has what it takes to be PM are not persuaded that there is a practical means of extracting Davidson from Holyrood and parachuting her into the top job.

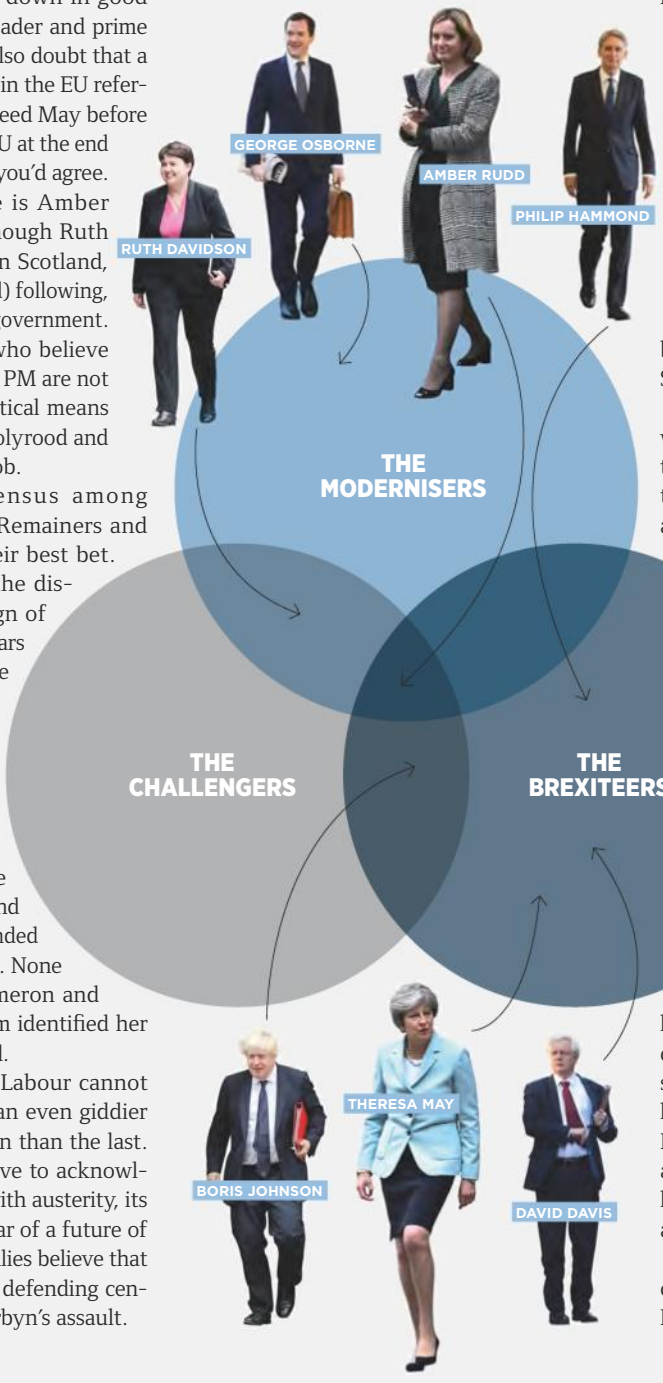
Hence a growing consensus among Conservative social liberals, Remainers and modernisers that Rudd is their best bet. It's not hard to see why. In the disastrous Tory election campaign of 2017, she was one of the few stars unfazed by the Corbynite surge and determined to stand up for compassionate conservatism.

In the BBC leaders' debate in May, Rudd stood in for her boss, even though her father had died only a few days before. Her performance at the rostrum was dignified, poised and empathetic: she looked and sounded like a prime minister in waiting. None of which surprised David Cameron and George Osborne, both of whom identified her as a politician of huge potential.

All elections are different. Labour cannot assume that the next will be an even giddier endorsement of Jeremy Corbyn than the last. But the winning party will have to acknowledge the country's weariness with austerity, its boredom with Brexit and its fear of a future of turbulent uncertainty. Rudd's allies believe that she is the party's best hope of defending centre-ground Toryism against Corbyn's assault.

The Tories' triple threat

Front and centre in the inevitable battle to find a new Conservative leader – and, thus, the country's next prime minister – home secretary Amber Rudd is the only contender with a foot in every camp



The most obvious obstacle to her candidacy is her tiny majority of 346 in Hastings and Rye. Labour is already campaigning aggressively in seats held by prominent Tories it believes it can capture – including Chingford and Woodford Green, where Iain Duncan Smith has a majority of 2,438, and Uxbridge and South Ruislip, where Boris Johnson won in June by 5,034 votes. If these constituencies are seen by Corbyn's team as vulnerable, then what chance does Rudd have?

The answer is: better than you might think. In the past 40 years, every prime minister (with the exception of May herself this year) has increased his or her share of the constituency vote in the election after they became party leader. Would the voters of East Sussex really kick out a serving PM?

Rudd's supporters are confident that they would not. They also dismiss recent reports that their candidate-of-choice has signed up to a dream ticket with Johnson, in return for a promise that she would be chancellor in his reshuffled government. Certainly, such claims are not supported by Rudd's own behaviour. During the referendum campaign, she mocked Johnson as "the life and soul of the party" but "not the man you want to drive you home at the end of the evening". Were Rudd to support the foreign secretary as May's successor, she would be repeating the errors of Michael Gove's brief alliance with him last year: backing a contender whom she didn't believe was the right person for the job.

In practice, her greatest challenge is how best to position herself for a leadership campaign without unsettling Brexiteer MPs. If she makes her move too soon, they'll suspect her motives, fearing a last-minute U-turn on Britain's departure. The fact that she long ago accepted that Brexit is happening is neither here nor there. She must deal with the party's anxieties, groundless or not.

In the words of one of her lieutenants: "The only action she can take for now is inaction." Ever watched a politician try to stay silent? GQ

15 Dec

1

Star Wars: The Last Jedi

Little film, you may have heard about it. Galaxy far, far away, guys with glow-in-the-dark swords you don't want to turn on by accident when they're in your pocket, a little thing called the Force. Yup, it's here and Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) is finally back, training Rey (Daisy Ridley) as his apprentice, in a film in which we'll finally – *finally* – find out who her parents are. Or possibly they'll string it out for one more film. SM

FILM

Can Netflix close the credibility gap?

In 2018, it's statues not subscribers the streamers will count, and $8 billion says Amazon's lead won't last long

STORY BY **Stuart McGurk**

What do you get the streaming site that has everything? This year, for Netflix, the answer is obvious: it would like an Oscar and it would like one now. And what's more, it's probably going to get one.

This year won't be the first that Netflix goes all-out for Oscar credibility, but this time it stands a genuine chance of it. Netflix bagged its first Oscar last year, but in the documentary short category for the 40-minute *The White Helmets*, and was summarily upstaged in the home-streaming death-struggle by Amazon Prime, which picked up two top-table Oscars for *Manchester By The Sea* – one for Kenneth Lonergan for Best Original Screenplay and a true headliner in Casey Affleck's Best Actor win.

This, naturally, made Netflix upset. Did Netflix respond? Yes, in the only way it knows how: by throwing money at the problem. In fact, its film-festival spending was so extreme it led *New York* magazine to proclaim in February, "This is the year Netflix tried to swallow Sundance."

And its biggest bite is the Oscar-catnip race drama *Mudbound*, which it paid $12.5 million for. Telling the story of a white family who relocate to rural Mississippi after the Second World War, it's a perfect mixture of hot-topic issues and all-star ensemble cast (take your pick from Carey Mulligan, Jason Mitchell, Jason Clarke or the hotly tipped Mary J Blige) that'll scattershot for every Oscar category going.

Prestige is a new tactic for Netflix. While Amazon has been the one snapping up festival indies such as *Room*, *Manchester By The Sea* and the forthcoming *You Were Never Really Here* – its main horse in this year's Oscar race, a dark crime drama starring Joaquin Phoenix, which not only received a seven-minute standing ovation at Cannes but also saw Phoenix pick up the festival's Best Actor prize – Netflix has been content to forget about the quality and think about the bandwidth. It crunched its numbers and moneyballed its commissions and ended up with what people wanted to watch but didn't want to admit to. It green-lighted our secret shame. Which is how we ended up with Adam Sandler being given not one but two four-film deals over just three years. The likes of Tarantino parody *The Ridiculous 6* may have been one of the worst films made by sentient beings – and boasts the unhappy distinction of a zero per cent fresh Rotten Tomatoes rating, meaning not a single human, *on the internet*, had a single sentence of praise – yet Netflix revealed it received more viewers in the first 30 days than any other film on the platform.

Still, with its never-ending expansion – figures show 56,000 new subscribers every day and in 2018 Netflix plans to spend $8 billion on original content, which now accounts for a quarter of its catalogue – it only makes sense to go after the audience who might want a sensitive award-winning race drama as well as a film where people break wind on horses.

In the new streaming economy, they're all winners really. GQ

Mudbound is out now on Netflix and in cinemas; You Were Never Really Here is out on 23 February on Amazon Prime and in cinemas.

Playing dirty: Will Mudbound give Netflix the awards advantage over Amazon Prime?

2

The Darkest Hour

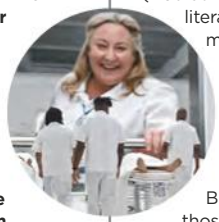
Gary Oldman lathers on the latex to become the second person to strap on Winston Churchill on the big screen in a matter of months, after Brian Cox (who admittedly probably had to strap on less) played our wartime PM in *Churchill*, a tight-focus piece that follows him in the hours leading up to D-Day. *The Darkest Hour* is a Joe Wright joint and is more about politics than war, focusing on Churchill in 1940 as Hitler gathered across the Channel and he attempts to gather his cabinet around him. Is Oldman amazing? What do you think? SM

Out on 12 January.

3

Downsizing

The title of the latest from Alexandra Payne (*Nebraska*, *Sideways*, *The Descendants*) is literal: Matt Damon, a small man of modest means, decides to live it big by getting smaller still – down to five inches in fact, via a new technique called "cellular miniaturisation", to live in a toy-box town called "Leisureland Estates", where his $152,000 life savings is suddenly worth $12 million. But all is not as it seems and all of those problems that seem so big don't get smaller just because you do. A high-concept high-brow marvel. SM **Out on 19 January.**



4

The Post

Fast-tracked by Spielberg in the wake of Donald Trump's unexpected election win, *The Post* is likely to be heavily involved in the Oscar race purely as a historical comfort blanket, charting, as it does, the publication of the Pentagon Papers, and how an embattled press (in this case the *Washington Post*, with Tom Hanks as editor Ben Bradlee) stood up to government bullying and exposed the secrets (about the Vietnam War) they were keen to remain that way. We can hope. SM

Out on 19 January.

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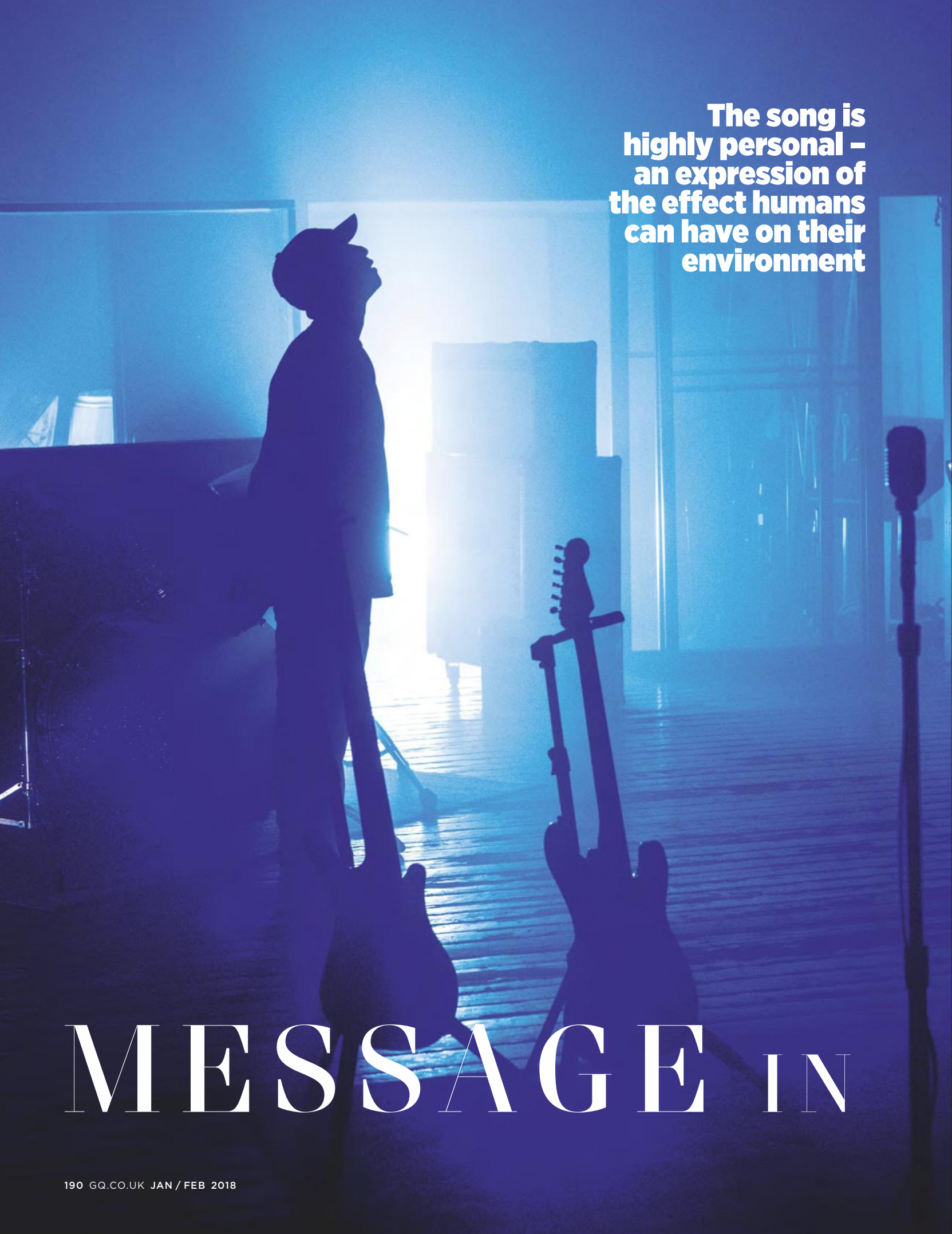


The song is highly personal – an expression of the effect humans can have on their environment

MESSAGE IN

Pharrell Williams' song '100 Years' has been recorded in secret as part of his collaboration with Louis XIII Cognac

On a mission to highlight the real and present danger of climate change, PHARRELL WILLIAMS has written a song set for release a century from now, which asks will we still be here to hear it in 100 years?

A BOTTLE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **David Uzochukwu** AND **Stefania Rosini**

If you look quickly at the luxury goods industry, or indeed the luxury drinks market, trends appear to come and go with alarming frequency. Look harder, and you'll see themes that slowly hove into view and last for much longer than you might think. Just examine the various prefixes of choice we have endured in recent years. In the Eighties, the prefix of the day was "designer" – designer clothes, designer cars, designer furniture, designer water – which mutated into "luxury" sometime in the mid-Nineties – luxury holidays, luxury homes, luxury lifestyle etc. Since the turn of the century, we have had two more prefixes to contend with: "bespoke" (suits, training shoes, even our own bodies) and, more recently, "sustainable".

The new project from Louis XIII is an idiosyncratic blend of both, an enterprise that not only celebrates creativity, but also amplifies personalisation in a world swamped by noise, mess and social media. Saliently, it also focuses heavily on sustainability. This month, Louis XIII premieres "100 Years" ("The Song We'll Only Hear If We Care") a unique musical composition created by Pharrell Williams that will not be released until 2117. That's right. In 100 years' time. Not next week, not next month, and not even next year, but in 100 years' time. So if we want our descendants to hear it, then we'd better try to take care of the world we live in.

Conway recording studio, Hollywood (above) and director Louis de Caunes

Why? Well, Louis XIII partnered with Pharrell on this innovative project due to a shared dedication to environmental issues. (Pharrell has, after all, already been heavily involved in sustainable fashion: "Fashion can be a universal player in protecting the planet," he says. "Fashion is certainly a huge part of everybody's lives.") The song is highly personal, a creative expression of the delicate relationship between nature and time and the effect humans have on their environment.

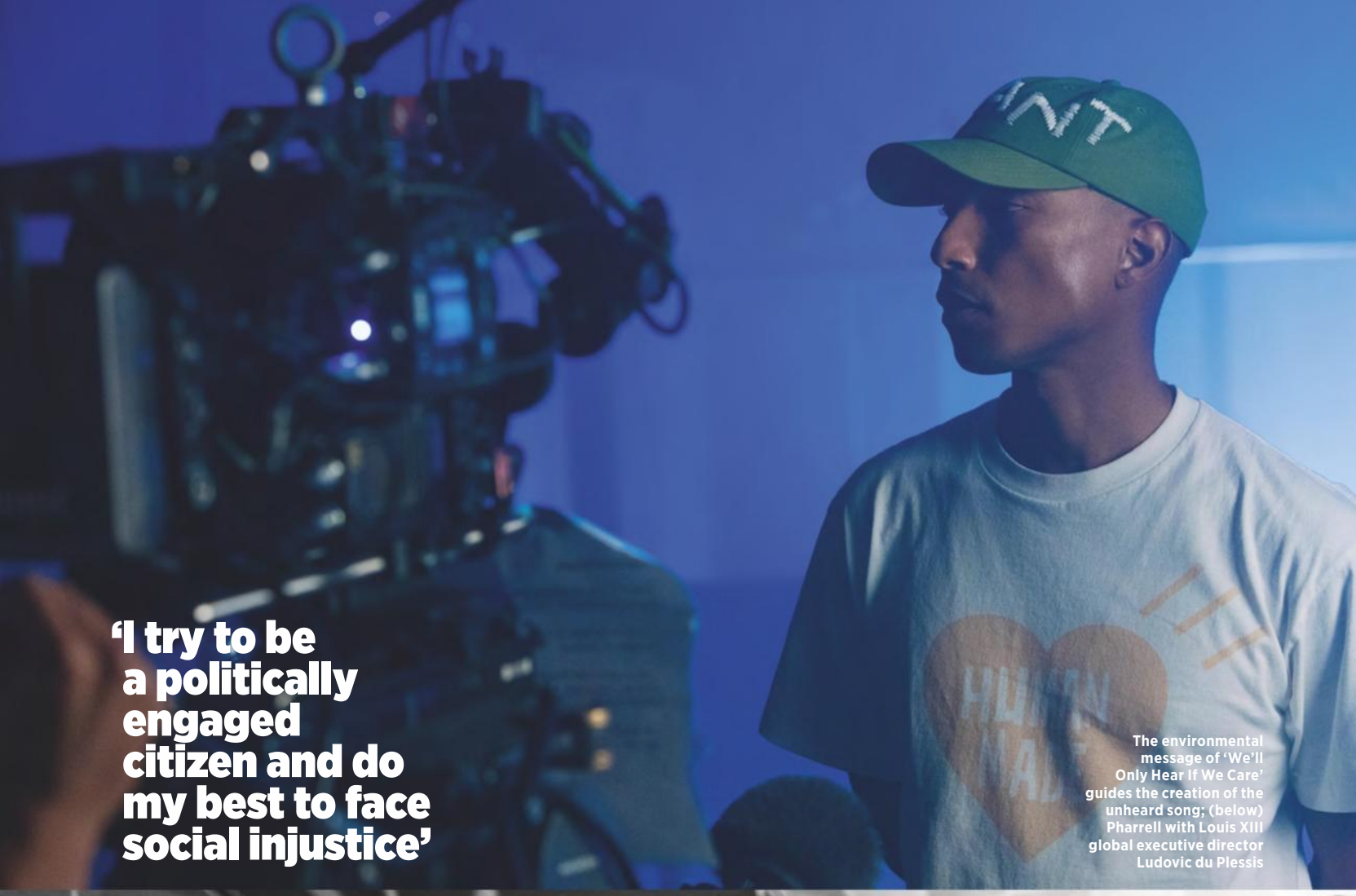
The sentiment is powerful, as is the symbolism, as is the songs' relationship with the brand. Each decanter of Louis XIII represents the life achievement of generations of "cellar masters", meaning the brand always has to think a century ahead. These cellar masters select from the oldest and most precious eaux-de-vie. The current custodian, Baptiste Loiseau, is doing the same, as a legacy to his successors for the coming century. Louis XIII is an intricate alchemy of up to 1,200 eaux-de-vie. If patience really is a virtue, they have taken this to heart, with a commitment to make sure things are done right.

Pharrell's song will not be released until 2117. That's right. In 100 years' time

Pharrell's exclusive track has been recorded on a record made of clay from the chalky soil of Cognac, France, and stored in the cellars of Louis XIII in a state-of-the-art safe, specially designed by vault maker Fichet-Bauche that is only destructible when submerged in water. If sea levels continue to rise at such an alarming rate due to climate change, scientists project that in 100 years a significant portion of the world's land might be underwater. The only way to guarantee this original piece of music will be heard again in 2117, one century from now, is if we address the encroaching consequences of global warming. The message is clear: if we don't change our way of living, future generations will never be able to hear this song. Hence the message: "100 Years" by Pharrell Williams will be out in 2117, but only #Ifwecare.

The singer has long been passionate about preserving our environment and how important human action is to addressing climate change. The song is being premiered at a private listening party in Shanghai, where Pharrell will present the song one time only. The 100 lucky guests in attendance will not be allowed to record the once-in-a-lifetime experience, so the track will remain a secret for the next century. With this project, Louis XIII and Pharrell aim to inspire people to take action and motivate others to get involved in the international effort to curb global warming. "I'm passionate about two big issues: climate change and education and skills for young people," says Pharrell. "Climate change is one of the most defining issues of our time, one that threatens our very existence on Earth." Even though he's not a huge activist, he says, "I try to be a politically engaged citizen and do my best to face social injustice. I try to participate and play my little part. Our species needs to work harder to make the world a better place."

"This project is an exciting creative exploration of the way our actions today shape the world of tomorrow," says Ludovic du Plessis, global executive director of Louis XIII. "Nature and time are at the heart of what we do – each decanter of Louis XIII represents the life achievement of generations of cellar masters, so we must always think a century ahead. If the environment is unstable, even the greatest cellar masters would not be able to create Louis XIII."»



‘I try to be a politically engaged citizen and do my best to face social injustice’

The environmental message of ‘We’ll Only Hear If We Care’ guides the creation of the unheard song; (below) Pharrell with Louis XIII global executive director Ludovic du Plessis

» Since the blend's origins in 1874, each generation of cellar master had been responsible for it. Now, cellar master Loiseau is doing the same for the generations to follow, sourcing 100 per cent of the grapes from Grande Champagne, the first cru of the Cognac region. The famous decanters have been made from fine crystal for generations, mouth-blown by some of the most skilled master craftsmen. Louis XIII features exceptional aromas, evoking myrrh, honey, dried roses, plum, honeysuckle, cigar box, leather, figs and passion fruit.

The brand initiated a similar project two years ago, when it commissioned acting legend John Malkovich and cult director Robert Rodriguez to make a film that won't be shown for a century (giving new meaning to the idea that sometimes films fail to find an appreciative audience until years after their release). The pair collaborated on *100 Years*, a movie that has also been placed in a special time-locked vault at the House Of Louis XIII in Cognac – this one won't open until 18 November 2115.

"There were several options when the project was first presented of what the future would be," said Malkovich. "An incredibly high-tech, beyond-computerised version of the world, a post-Chernobyl, back-to-nature, semi-collapsed civilisation, and then there was a retro future, which was how the future was imagined in the science fiction of the Forties or Fifties."

Malkovich spent months researching various options, focusing particularly on visions of 2015 from over a century ago. "Some of it was strangely accurate, oddly enough, but of course the vast majority of it was unimaginable. And I think that's what the future is to most of us," he said. *100 Years* envisions the Earth 100 years from now and again was inspired by the craftsmanship and patience it takes to create each decanter of Louis XIII Cognac.

John Malkovich worked with director Robert Rodriguez to create the film 100 Years in 2015, a copy of which has been locked away in the House of Louis XIII in Cognac, France

The collaboration with Pharrell is an inspired sequel, challenging us all to think a little bit more clearly about the way we're heading. Like a storied, timeless cognac, Pharrell's song is not available to download, just as *100 Years* is not "Coming Soon". And in this case, all good things come to those who wait.

We hope.

The Louis XIII Cognac terroir

All the brandies entitled to the "cognac appellation" are made from the same grape varieties, harvested in the same way at the same times. Louis XIII is based in Cognac itself, with vineyards in the strictly controlled portion of the region known as Grande Champagne (so named by the Romans because it reminded them of Campania, south of Rome).

The blend

Louis XIII is a blend of up to 1,200 eaux-de-vie, with 100 per cent coming from Grand Champagne, the first cru (meaning "growth", a cru is a group of vineyards of acknowledged quality) of the Cognac region. The blend is what generates such a wide range of aromas to the cognac.

The decanter

The Louis XIII Cognac decanters are inspired by the military flask French soldiers carried into battle during the 17th century (Louis XIII himself lived from 1601 to 1643). Crystal now rather than the metal of 450 years ago, no two of these hand-crafted, hand-blown and individually numbered vessels are exactly alike.

The ageing process

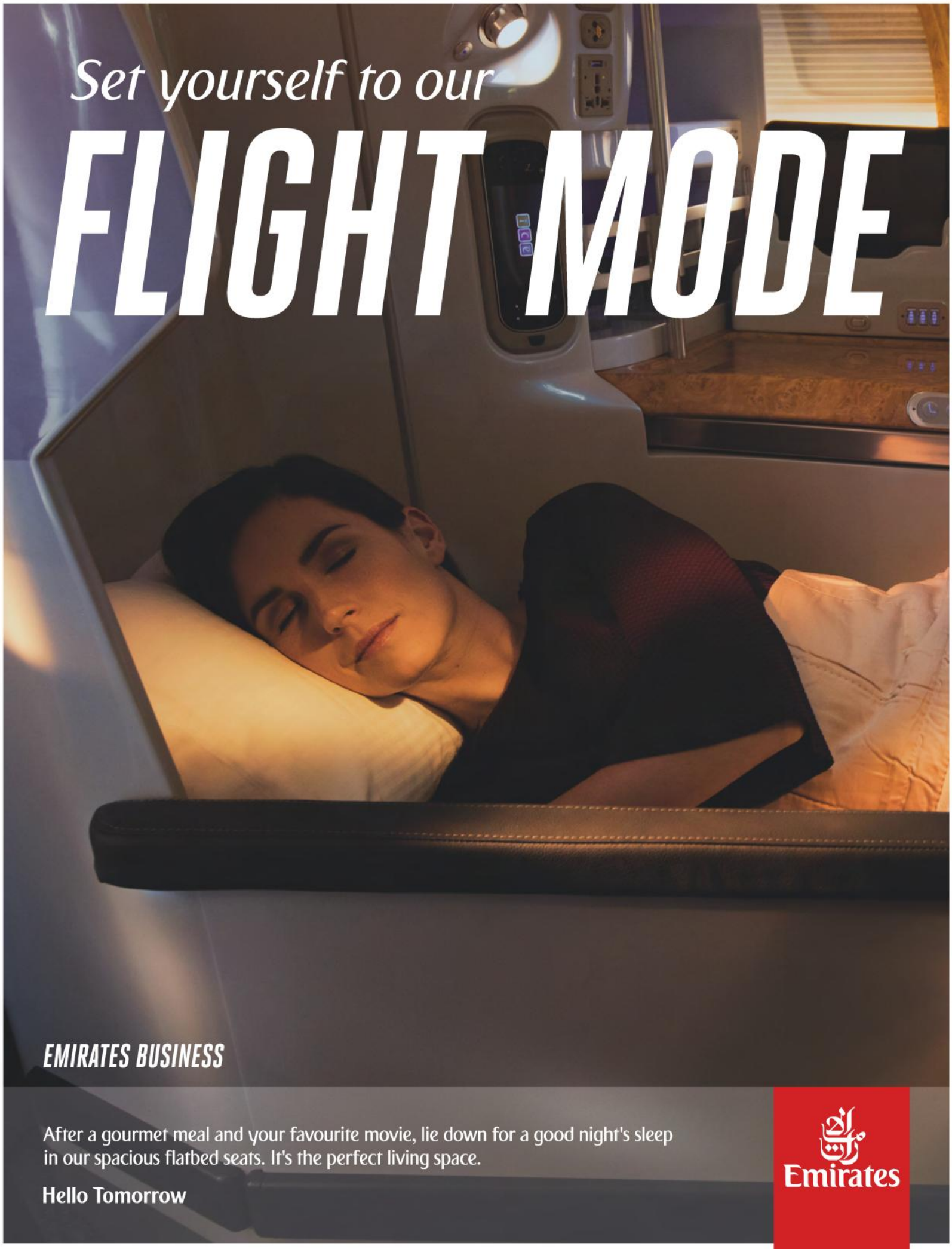
The tierçon (or "cask", *below*) was originally meant for use on horse-drawn carts, three at a time. Louis XIII uses casks made of oak from the Limousin region, due east of Champagne. The porous wood is perfect for the long and delicate relationship between the liquid and the atmosphere. The process is assessed by a cellar master every year.

The founding chairman

Paul-Emile Rémy Martin (1810-1875) was one of the founding fathers of France's great cognac production, but Louis XIII owes more to André Renaud (*below*) than any other individual. Cellar master and chairman from 1924 for almost four decades, he began the dynasty of cellar masters that has reached Baptiste Loiseau today.

The collaboration with Pharrell is an inspired sequel to the John Malkovich film

Pharrell's writing and recording process is saved for posterity at Conway Studios; (below) Pharrell at the piano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GENTLEMEN'S QUARTERLY

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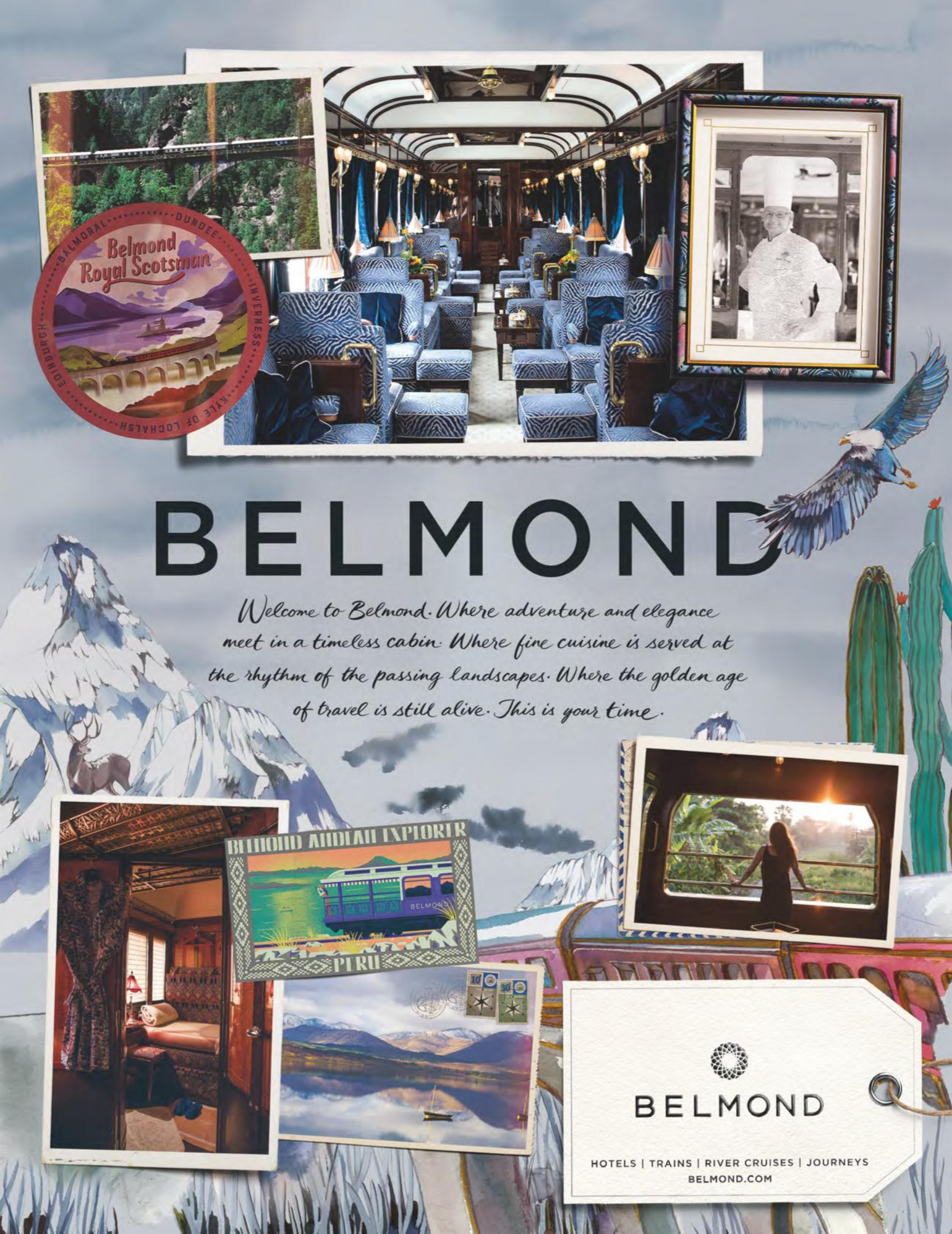

BELMOND

Welcome to Belmond. Where adventure and elegance meet in a timeless cabin. Where fine cuisine is served at the rhythm of the passing landscapes. Where the golden age of travel is still alive. This is your time.

Editor's letter

We used to travel to experience the world. Now we travel to share it. Thanks to our social feeds, our "home" is wherever we find ourselves, and if that's in a unique or exotic location, all the better. Which is why for this edition of *GQ Travel* we took to the high roads of Malaysia and the Andes (by Belmond train) to uncover unforgettable journeys off the beaten track; found fresh powder in one of the most remarkable ski areas on earth; and asked a veteran travel writer to show us how to put our feet up without losing that all-important sense of place.

Luckily, in that regard, we're living through an era of constant evolution in the hotel world, where independent operators are springing up to meet our need for individuality in a cookie-cutter culture.

Enjoy the vicarious adventure, plan a voyage of your own and consider *GQ Travel* your passport to perfecting that trip.

Bill Prince, Editor, *GQ Travel*

MALAYSIA
Monsoons and motorcycles
The first rule to learn in bike club is that there are no rules. But we recommend you wear a helmet...

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A fantasy trip gets extreme as *GQ* heli-skis through *Game Of Thrones* country.

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News Hotels

Not just independent, but different: four new openings are going it alone while tearing up the form book on luxurious lodging...

EDITED BY **Bill Prince**

Rooms from £298. Tordenskjoldsgade 15, 1055, Copenhagen, Denmark. +45 46 400 040. hotelsanders.com

Copenhagen

Hotel Sanders

For 17 years, Alexander Kolpin was one of the world's leading ballerinos, famously as principal dancer for the Royal Danish Ballet. Now his second act – Hotel Sanders – looks set to be as celebrated. Formerly the boho Hotel Opera, the art nouveau shell has been lovingly restored, with 91 rooms reduced to 52 and virtually every detail bespoke (thanks to London studio Lind + Almond). Owned with his architect father, Kolpin has created a hotel that's notable for its elegant design in a country obsessed with concept, and Sanders pulls off that rare feat of providing five-star opulence in a supremely relaxed atmosphere. Infused with the Danish capacity for late-night fun (see: the bar Tata and the rooftop Conservatory) and a sensual twist on "*hygge*", Sanders has all the makings of a home away from home and an instant classic on the global stage set. **Olivia Cole** ››

London

The Mandrake

London's hotel openings are rather like its buses, you wait years for one, then several appear at once. So after the glitzy debuts of The Ned, Curtain and Nobu Shoreditch, the arrival of The Mandrake last autumn was as welcome as a No13 on a winter's night. Carved from a Riba Award-winning building in Fitzrovia, The Mandrake – named for the plant's medicinal properties – promises a degree of hedonism with a touch of the surreal. Its art-heavy interior plays host to a vibey bar, Waeska, overlooked by Fable, a model of bio-morphing taxidermy by the artist Enrique Gomez De Molina, and a restaurant by Hong Kong's Michelin-starred Serge Et Le Phoque. Besides a lift shaft decorated in tattoo-like stencils by Thomas Hooper, the public spaces contain work by Francesco Clemente and Jonas Burgert, as well as a 30-candle chandelier by Lara Bohinc. Meanwhile, its 33 rooms and suites, arranged around a courtyard, come with non-sheepish interiors and Venetian-style masks. With a rooftop super-suite with its own terrace and a basement screening room-cum-supper club with murals by Berlin street-art duo Herakut and the artist Philippe De Villiers, expect the hotel to revive the parts other, less individualistic spots fail to reach. "I try to create a mythical, magical place where people can have a good time," says owner Rami Fustok, "and I've created it by touching and stimulating the senses." **BP**

Rooms from £290. 20-21 Newman Street, London W1. 020 3146 7770. themandrake.com

Ghent

1898 The Post

With just 38 rooms and suites, the Zannier family's first urban outpost (they currently operate in the French Alps and Siem Reap) has been hewn from the upper floors of a historic post office building in the heart of Arnaud Zannier's adopted hometown of Ghent. Built for the 1913 World Exhibition, its neo-gothic and neo-renaissance influences are now joined by an interior that makes full use of dramatic ceiling heights using a pallete of dark hues and antique furnishings in keeping with its *fin de siècle* origins. Doffing a cap to Ghent's busy restaurant scene, 1898 The Post foregoes a dining room in favour of The Kitchen, a cosy space with an open fireplace, where breakfast, light lunches and afternoon tea can be taken, and The Cobbler, a welcome addition to the city's already booming bar culture serving drinks and tapas-style dishes to residents and locals alike. "So that is the mission for me, to create something that was missing in the market," says Zannier. "For us, luxury isn't about golden taps in the bathroom. Our customers are looking for a different atmosphere and different experiences." **BP** ››

Rooms from £130. Graslei 16, 9000, Ghent, Belgium. +32 9 391 5379. zannierhotels.com

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New York

The Whitby

Husband and wife team Kit and Tim Kemp, owners of Firmdale Hotels, are masters at creating the perfect boutique stay, and last year they tightened their grip on New York with The Whitby. Retaining Kit's colourful style in what could have been a grand if muted midtown environment, the public areas reflect the Kemps' taste for art, with the bar-brasserie and lobby areas alive with Carla Kranendonk's Afro-influenced art. The 86 rooms are no less startling, with fabric-lined walls, slipper-soft furnishings and marble bathrooms. The Whitby also sports a well-equipped gym and a 130-seat theatre, but this is first and foremost an ideal retreat for anyone wishing to be close to Moma, the theatre district or the super-brand souks lining Fifth Avenue. BP GQ

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The magestic view of St Moritz, historic home of Alpine sports and leisure

SWITZERLAND

The land where winter sports began

If you want to experience the full variety of snow activities in the place where it all got started, then you need to visit Switzerland

ENGADIN ST MORITZ

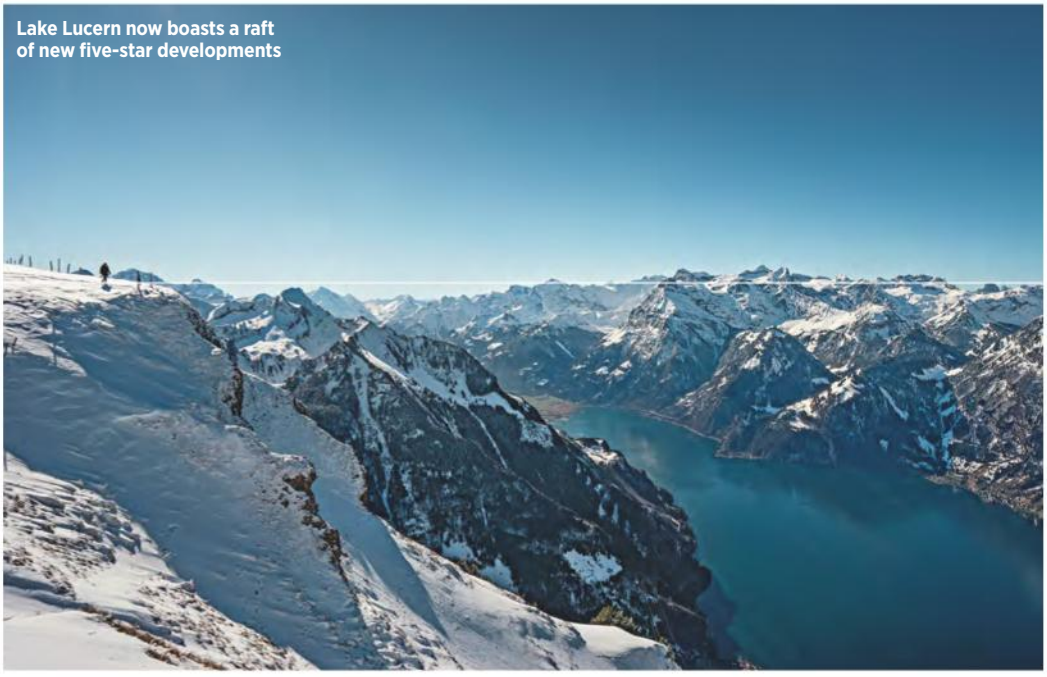
In the summer of 1864, a St Moritz hotelier named Johannes Badrutt wagered four British guests that if they returned in winter they'd fall in love with the snowy conditions. Sure enough, they stayed until Easter. So began Alps winter tourism, with St Moritz in the Engadin valley going on to become a favourite destination for Alfred Hitchcock, Brigitte Bardot and the Kennedys. Many hotels offer a lift pass for under £30, while the town hosts unmissable events such as the legendary Engadin Ski Marathon, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in March 2018. A cross-country ski race held over a 26-mile marathon distance, it passes through some of the most spectacular, snow-laden landscape in the world. It's an event you'll want to keep coming back to – just ask the 80-year-old skier who this year will compete in her 30th race.

While there's year-round fine dining in the Engadin valley, foodies should put Friday 12 to Saturday 20 January 2018 in their diaries. That's when the St Moritz Gourmet Festival will celebrate its 25th anniversary by bringing some of the world's finest chefs to town.

LAKE LUCERNE

The area around Lake Lucerne, which includes the city of Lucerne itself and destinations such as Andermatt and Engelberg, has recently been going through an exciting period of redevelopment and reinvention. Andermatt is now home to one of the most stylish and modern hotels in the Alps, the five-star Chedi Andermatt. Meanwhile, nearby Engelberg is known as a freeriding destination and home to the world's first revolving gondola.

One experience that shouldn't be missed in the region is the après-ski train between Andermatt and Disentis, the longest après-ski train journey anywhere in the world. The specially designed Glacier Express has a carriage with glass


Lake Lucern now boasts a raft of new five-star developments

sides in order to offer panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and snow-covered countryside, while there's also a bar with a lounge area so you can relax in style and enjoy the journey with small plates of food and a cocktail in hand.

007 in Andermatt

In *Goldfinger*, Sean Connery's James Bond finds himself locked in a car chase with Tilly Masterton through Andermatt's spellbinding Furka Pass. They end up at a scenic petrol station forecourt, which remains there to this day, making it an ideal location for Instagram selfies.

VALAIS: NENDAZ

Valais is home to some of Switzerlands's most famous ski resorts, including Verbier, Zermatt, Crans-Montana and Saas-Fee. However, dig below the surface and there are plenty of hidden gems. Take Nendaz, for example, which is located in the next valley to the world-famous Verbier. Many ski aficionados regard it as a well-kept secret where you can ski on the very same mountains as at its more famous cousin. While in Nendaz, it's possible to see for yourself what makes skiing on freeride pistes safe by spending a day in the company of an avalanche expert. They'll be able to demonstrate just how you can adapt your behaviour in emergency situations in order to control the avalanche risk, and what to look out for in terms of weather forecasts. With the help of their expert advice, the mountains will no longer hold secrets.

Ski by day, dance by night. If you're a house and techno fan then April is the time to visit Valais. Caprices Festival, in Crans-Montana, is one of Europe's best snow music festivals and attracts top DJs to party on the Alpine slopes. It's a whole new type of aprês-ski.

VALAIS: AROLLA

It's not just Nendaz. Another lesser-known diamond hidden away in Valais is Arolla, a small resort in the Val d'Hérens. In the 19th Century the town was only accessible via a difficult mulepath from Les Haudères, but since becoming accessible by road it has become an increasingly popular destination for downhill and cross-country skiers. It's an exciting town to visit, offering plenty of opportunities for thrill-seekers to enjoy such as helicopter skiing and paragliding – the perfect way to see the slopes from a new perspective. Ski tours also offer a different way to explore the surrounding geography. Easily accessible from Arolla itself is the Lower Arolla glacier, situated below the Mont Collon glacier, which has a length of 1.5 km. The wildlife, which includes ibex, marmots and chamois, as well as the stunning views of the glaciers make Arolla a paradise waiting to be discovered.

Andermatt is now home to one of the most stylish and modern hotels in the Alps

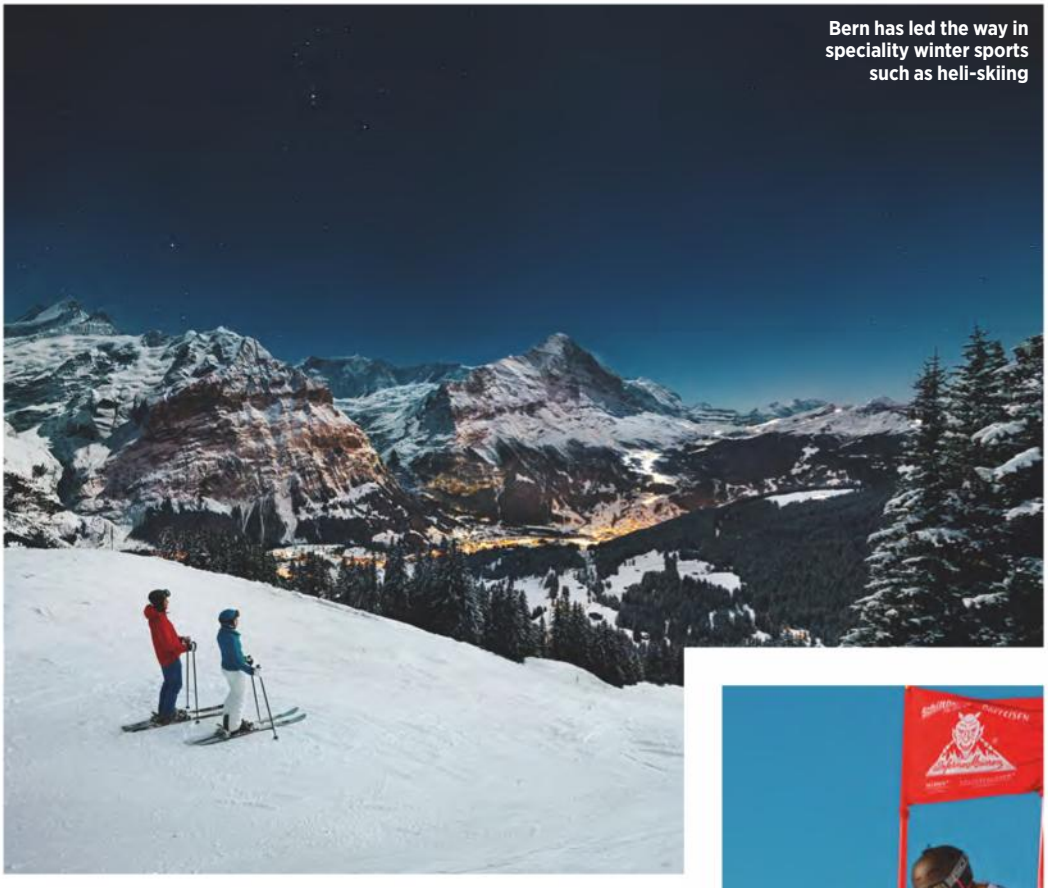
Chilled out tunes

If raving at Caprices Festival isn't your thing, Zermatt Unplugged – 10 to 14 April 2018 – brings a more relaxed festival vibe to the mountains. This year's line-up is still under wraps but previous years have seen performances from Nelly Furtado, Simple Minds and Bryan Ferry.

Images © Switzerland Tourism

LAKE GENEVA

The area to the north of Lake Geneva, the largest lake in the Alps, is home to towns like Montreux, Vevey and Lausanne as well as mountain resorts such as Les Diablerets and Villars-sur-Ollon. This area holds particular importance in the history of competitive skiing in Switzerland because it was in Villars in 1994 that, at the age of only two years-old, Swiss freestyle skier Fanny Smith first took to the slopes. Smith's childhood spent hurtling around Villars served her well, and in 2013 she was crowned the world's top-ranked ski-cross racer and took home the gold medal from the World Championships in Voss, Norway. It's little wonder then that many ski fans come from far and wide to take on the same steep-walled curves, waves and jumps of the 1,000-metre course where Smith first felt the intoxicating adrenaline rush of skiing in the Alps.



Bern has led the way in speciality winter sports such as heli-skiing

They have slopes to suit everyone from beginners to old hands

Ballooning excitement

The International Hot-Air Balloon Festival in Château-d'Oex is one of the most popular in the world, attracting nearly 100 balloons from over 20 countries. It will run from 27 January to 4 February 2018, and will include the spectacular "night-glow" show where the balloons are lit only by their burners.

BERN-BENESE OBERLAND

The region south of the Swiss capital Bern is very popular with Brits. Among their favourite resorts are Jungfrau, Adelboden-Lenk, Gstaad, Meiringen-Hasliberg, Interlaken and Kandersteg, where Eddie the Eagle once trained. Eddie can't take all the credit, however – the region's popularity can also be put down to the fact that they have slopes to suit everyone from beginners to old hands. Recent years have been a boom time for speciality activities such as heli-skiing, which means hunting for fresh powder snow in a helicopter from a company like Air-Glaciers in Gstaad. After taking off from the Gstaad-Grund Heliport, heli-skiing offers the chance to enjoy spectacular views, untouched slopes and even a trip into the back country along with a guide or ski instructor. As any skier knows, there are few finer feelings in life than powering through fresh, powdery and untouched snow.

Join the world's 'craziest ski race'

From 17-20 January 2018 there takes place a ski race unlike any other: InfernoMürren. The longest downhill race in the world, it's open for amateur skiers and each year attracts thousands of competitors who want to prove themselves in an event which this year celebrates its 75th anniversary.

HOW TO GET THERE

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How to pack City Break

Packing for the city is all about finding the perfect balance between comfort and elegance. During the day, explore in smart jeans and cosy knitwear and in the evening discover the latest hot spots in relaxed yet tailored trousers and a beautifully soft statement jacket

COMPILED BY **Michiel Steur** PHOTOGRAPHS BY **Roger Stillman**

1. Trainers by **Russell & Bromley**, £155. russellandbromley.co.uk **2.** Pouch by **Boss**, £369. hugoboss.com
3. Polo shirt by **Corneliani**, £330. At Selfridges. selfridges.com **4.** Jacket by **Ami Paris**, £630. At Harrods. harrods.com
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Rotary club: Luxury adventure travel destination Deplar Farm arranges heli-ski sessions on Iceland's Troll Peninsular

ICELAND

Are these the best slopes in Westeros?

Thanks to Game Of Thrones, 'unprecedented adventure' trips to the north are on the up

STORY BY **Simon Mills**

Iceland is so hot right now. Party town capital Reykjavik is the beardy, craft ale-drinking hipster capital of the northern hemisphere. The marauding national football team has nicked a place at the 2018 World Cup finals and the political system has been thoroughly shaken up by a free-thinking, game-changing bunch called the Pirate Party.

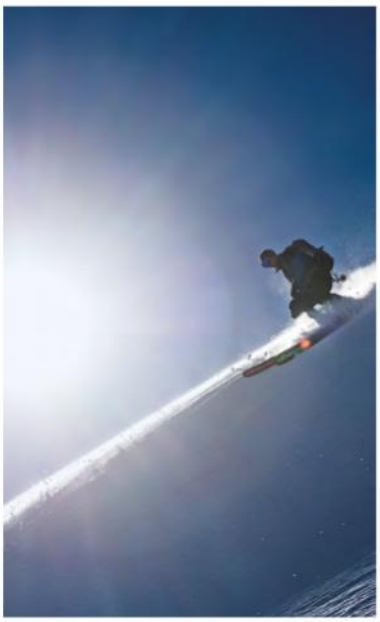
Islensku references – from Skyr yoghurt and heavy, hand-knit sweaters through to Bjork, Sigur Ros, Olafur Eliasson, Gylfi Sigurdsson and Westeros – pepper our cultural lexicon. How did this happen? Easy. Two explosions – one volcanic, one financial – followed by several thrilling pop-culture moments.

Thanks to extensive news coverage of the banking crash and the eruption of Eyjafjallajokull in 2010, Iceland's global profile blew up. People were suddenly putting it on their bucket list. When TV behemoth *Game Of Thrones* chose the spectacular island for repeat filming locations, the island's hip, "must visit" reputation was assured. Tourism has gone up 30 per cent every year since.

Enter American-born investment banker and self-styled adventure capitalist Chad Pike, founder of the Eleven group portfolio of luxury outdoor pursuits hotels, which "quench a thirst for unprecedented adventures, authentic connections with down-to-earth guides and deeply personalised vacation plans".

With four beautifully appointed properties (or "Hideouts" as Eleven prefers to call them) in Colorado and additional super-luxe outposts in Amsterdam and the French Alps, Eleven caters for "the tenacious innovator. The alpha explorer... the adventure capitalist." Last year, Pike opened his newest and most remote outpost, Deplar Farm in Iceland.

This part of the Trollaskagi



Slope off: Kerlingarfjoll is Iceland's highest mountain and most of the open ski routes lead down to the coast

peninsula is an epic four-hour drive through fairy-tale scenery north of Reykjavik – although Deplar Farm's airstrip, currently under construction, will cut the journey time to half an hour or so.

The "Troll Peninsula" is home to Kerlingarfjoll, Iceland's highest peak at 1,538 metres, and two massive fjords – Skagafjordur on the west and Eyjafjordur on the east. The tiny island of Hrisey is accessible by ferry from the town of Dalvik. Deplar Farm is a Viking-luxe sanctuary in the midst of all this staggering, natural splendour.

GQ visited in April, too early for fly fishing but perfect timing for heli-skiing. And if this is how the hedgefunders do black runs then we are most definitely in.

Our first drop is the start of six hours of pure skiing nirvana. No lifts, no people, no markings, no tracks. Just an exhilarating, 360-degree downhill wilderness, with most routes leading to the coast. The snow is perfect for a tentative off-piste skier. Turns come easy; skis become a long ship on a swirling white sea, lower body apparently propelled by the hammer of the gods. We do 12 or 13 more drops, each and every one a soaring, solitary thrill ride.

Back at our vertiginous base camp is a buffet of Icelandic cheese, crackers and chilled champagne laid out on the chopper's outlying equipment cage. No other skiing day will ever come close to this.

Protracted après-ski is spent at Deplar Farm's club bar, with its fully Stratocastered-up rock'n'roll stage, where Ben Stiller and his pals enjoyed an opening party jam session. After dinner, delirious with fine wine and the aerial lava lamp magnificence of the Northern Lights, we submerge in the outdoor hot pool's wet-bar cocktail and lose ourselves in the Norse gods' great light show. **GQ**

No lifts, no people, no tracks. Just an exhilarating downhill nirvana

SIMON MILLS' TRAVEL TIPS

When to visit
April is the perfect time of year for heli-skiing. The snow will be firm on top with a forgiving powdery layer beneath.

What to do
A stay at Deplar Farm includes daily guided heli-skiing, with all the gear you need. An in-house "experience manager" will help plan your visit before you arrive.

What to see
The views from Reykjavik in the south during the journey to Deplar Farm are a sweeping, widescreen spectacle of raw, Arctic beauty, towering peaks and storm-battered troughs that have inspired everyone from Tolkien to Led Zeppelin.

Where to stay
Deplar Farm, Deplar 570, Fljot, Skagafjordur. From £2,160 per person per night during heli-ski season. 020 8102 9800. elevenexperience.com

How to get there
Icelandair flies from London to Akureyri from £400 return. icelandair.co.uk

MALAYSIA

Monsoons and motorcycles

From its bewildering capital to the untouched wilds, GQ rides Southeast Asia's sensory storm

STORY BY **Paul Henderson**

The ride stuff: GQ's Paul Henderson on the road to Malaysia's Bharat plantation

Dual personality: Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Twin Towers rise above the city's old colonial buildings

The first rule to learn in bike club is that there are no rules. But we recommend you wear a helmet...

When you are in Malaysia, especially during the southwest monsoon season (lasting from May to September and not to be confused with the northeast monsoon season that begins in October and carries on until March), and your guide predicts rain, it means you can expect either a short but heavy downpour lasting ten to 15 minutes, or you are about to face a Biblical deluge that would give Noah a sense of déjà vu. Guess which one we got?

Five hours into our road trip, after leaving the pandemonium of Kuala Lumpur for the tranquil hill station of the Cameron Highlands and our merry convoy – to borrow a description from Forrest Gump, who suffered similar meteorological conditions in nearby Vietnam – has been through every kind of rain there is. "From little bitty stingin' rain and big ol' fat rain. To rain that flew in sideways and sometimes rain that even seemed to come straight up from underneath." And, just to make things interesting, we are riding motorbikes, up a 60-kilometre-long, treacherously winding, pot-holed and rock-strewn Tapah mountain road, at night... Still, at least they drive on the left-hand side of the road here. Mostly.

But if you want to discover the real Malaysia it makes sense to follow the road less travelled, especially if you have spent two days in the swarming metropolis the locals call KL. The nation's capital is a frenetic city where every one of the five million registered car owners (the population in Greater Kuala Lumpur is only eight million) seem to be constantly on the move, creating vast automotive arteries in a landscape of modern skyscrapers, old colonial buildings and tiny traditional homes.

Tour de force: The BMW R 1200 GS equipped itself well on GQ's Malaysian road trip

It is a shock to the senses on every level, especially if you experience it for the first time after emerging blinking and drowsy from a 13-hour overnight flight on Malaysian Airlines. The humidity hits you like a fiery flannel round the face and the bewildering array of languages being spoken is disorientating. Malay, Chinese and Indian are the dominant nationalities, but you'll also come across Bangladeshi, Singaporean and English speakers at any one time. With the heat, the sights and the sound, it's like being tossed around a hot wok until you find your place among the chaos. Luckily, we have a couple of local guides to help us cool our stir-fried senses. Unluckily, they expect us to make our way in this brave new world on BMW R 1200 GS motorbikes in the morning rush hour.

The first rule to learn in bike club is that there are no rules. "Scooter and motorbike riders in KL can ride anywhere," ChoonBeng Ooi tells us. "Between lanes, on the hard shoulder, you can even stop under bridges on the Expressway. We recommend you wear a helmet, though." It's good advice and, despite the jetlag, it is actually quite easy to get up to speed and Malaysian drivers are surprisingly docile compared to many European countries. You will rarely hear a horn, lane-changing is minimal and road rage is virtually unheard of.

At street level, it's difficult to differentiate one area of the city from another. From the vantage point of Menara KL Tower, it all becomes clear. At 421 metres, it is the capital's most recognisable landmark and offers a 360-degree ››

Photographs **Armand Attard**

» vantage point. If you are feeling especially brave, you can take it in from the glass-bottomed viewing platform beloved by tourists.

One thing easy to find in KL is a decent place to eat, although the more down-at-heel street-food establishments are best. Restoran Sri Paandi, for example, with its battered Formica tables, shabby leatherette chairs and ancient ceiling fans, looks like the kind of place where dysentery was first diagnosed, but it serves some of the best mutton curry, chicken curry, daal and fried fish you will find. It's one of the last places in the country to still serve food on a real banana leaf. "Use your hands!" we are implored by the owner. "It tastes much better."

Escaping the city comes as a relief, both from the sensory overload and the stifling heat. But wherever you are heading, make sure you stop off at the Batu Caves, a Hindu shrine carved into limestone rock watched over by the colossal golden Murugan statue. Before you make the perilous 272-step ascent to the caves, make sure you grab a couple of bricks or a bucket of sand to help with the ongoing building work. If you don't, the wild chattering monkeys will hurl coconut husks at your head (truth be told, they will do that anyway).

Then keep on going, to the Cameron Highlands and the stunning Bharat tea plantation. With it's cool, tropical temperatures, it is like nowhere else in Malaysia, with an ecosystem all its own, hundreds of floral species and various animals, such as deer, declared protected. It's a side of Malaysia that many feared lost to development. Explore the forested trails and you find waterfalls, stunning views and even aboriginal people – the Orang Asli are open and friendly to visitors... even those that arrive bedraggled and riding off-road bikes.

However, for the ultimate in Malaysian experiences, it is worth travelling on to the Bukit Merah Laketown Resort. At first glance, this theme park set on a 7,000-acre freshwater lake in the Semanggol Mountain, looks like a traditional – if slightly run-down – tourist spot. But across the lake there is Orangutan Island, a conservation zone that is home to 17 orangutans where visitors walk through caged paths and the great apes roam free.

Head for the hills: The Bharat tea plantation in the Cameron Highlands; (inset) Sri Paandi in Kuala Lumpur serves some of the city's best Indian food

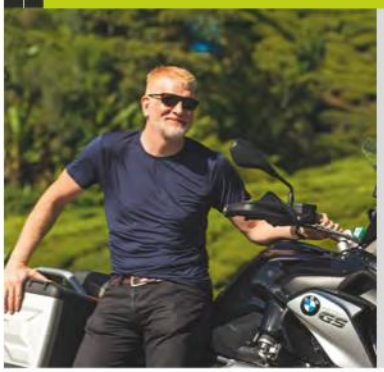
The Cameron Highlands is a side of Malaysia many feared lost to development

The aim is to educate visitors, as well as to protect what few of their population remains in Asia.

It is a sobering thought to take with us on the three-hour ride back to KL, this time along the North-South Expressway, Malaysia's answer to the M4. It's no distance at all after the journey we have done. Then again...

"Do you know what?" says our second guide, Ho Weng, as we prepare to leave. "It looks like it might rain this afternoon." **GQ**

PAUL HENDERSON'S TRAVEL TIPS



When to visit
Between May and July it will be hot and humid, with only occasional tropical showers.

Don't forget
A spare T-shirt, a spare spare T-shirt, and one more for luck.

Don't miss
The street food. Unlike some Asian countries, eating out-out in Malaysia is not a game of gastroenteritis roulette.

Where to stay
The Impiana KLCC, 13 Jalan Pinang, 50450, Kuala Lumpur. +60 321 471111. impiana.com.my; Kampung Air, 34400 Semanggol. +60 5890 8888. bukitmerahresort.com.my

How to get there
Malaysia Airlines flies from London Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur, from £492 return. malaysiaairlines.com

Photographs **Armand Attard**

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How to pack Business Travel

When packing for a work trip it's important to make your wardrobe perform just as well as you. Here's what to take to keep smart and stylish on the go, while making the most of your office essentials

COMPILED BY **Holly Roberts** PHOTOGRAPHS BY **Roger Stillman**

1. Rollneck by **Brooks Brothers**, £140. brooksbrothers.com **2.** Shaving set by **Harry's**, £24. harrys.com
3. Cufflinks by **Alice Made This**, £110. alicemadethis.com **4.** Trousers by **Tommy Hifiger**, £475 (sold as suit). tommy.com
5. Jacket by **Paul Smith**, £730 (sold as suit). paulsmith.com **6.** Loafers by **Tod's**, £270. tods.com **7.** Tie by **Reiss**, £45. reiss.com
8. Tie by **Reiss**, £45. reiss.com **9.** Tie by **Brooks Brothers**, £65. brooksbrothers.com **10.** Glasses by **Oliver Peoples**, £325. oliverpeoples.com
11. Trousers by **Paul Smith**, £730 (sold as suit). paulsmith.com **12.** Shoes by **Massimo Dutti**, £109. massimodutti.com
13. Suitcase by **Tumi**, £945. tumi.com **14.** Roma 60's Chrono watch by **Visconti**, £2,600. visconti.it
15. Belt by **Salvatore Ferragamo**, £245. ferragamo.com **16.** Shirt by **Gieves & Hawkes**, £145. gievesandhawkes.com

Get the look Winter Sun

The trick to compiling a wardrobe for a sunny holiday in the winter season is finding items you know you'll love back home in a couple of months and are therefore worth the investment. Get real summer vibes by packing bold colours and look just as refined as Paul Newman (below) in the 1958 classic The Long, Hot Summer

EDITED BY **Michiel Steur**

T-shirt by **Brunello Cucinelli**, £330. brunellocucinelli.com

Sunglasses by **Etro**, £225. At marchon.com

Jumper by **Bluemint**, £70. bluemint.com

Trousers by **Reiss**, £110. reiss.com

Sandals by **Birkenstock**, £25. birkenstock.com

Shirt by **Prada**, £300. At mrporter.com

Shirt by **Orlebar Brown**, £175. orlebarbrown.com. T-shirt by **Tommy Hilfiger**, £25. tommy.com

Swim shorts by **Orlebar Brown**, £140. orlebarbrown.com

Photograph **Getty Images**

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Get the look Long Haul

When preparing to board a long-haul flight comfort is key, but it's important not to compromise on style. Take inspiration from Ryan Gosling (below) and invest in sports-luxe staples to ensure your journey is as smooth as it looks

EDITED BY **Holly Roberts**

Hoodie by **Berluti**, £820. berluti.com

Eye mask by **Bottega Veneta**, £185. bottegaveneta.com

Suitcase by **Globe-Trotter**, £3,500. globe-trotter.com

Trousers by **Massimo Dutti**, £60. massimodutti.com

Jacket by **John Smedley**, £320. johnsmedley.com. Shirt by **Mango**, £36. mango.com. T-shirt by **Sunspel**, £45. sunspel.com

Currency holder by **Smythson**, £235. smythson.com

Travel bag by **Vivienne Westwood**, £540. viviennewestwood.com

Trainers by **Brunello Cucinelli**, £610. brunellocucinelli.com

Photograph **Splash News/Alamy**

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Get the look Alpine Adventure

This season, when it comes to off-slope styling, take a sartorial lead from fashion designer Valentino Garavani (below). Invest in sumptuous knits and luxurious textures in autumnal tones for the ultimate in après-chic. Team with this winter's essential shoe, the hiking boot, and you'll be ready to face whatever the weather throws at you

EDITED BY **Holly Roberts**

Backpack by **Canali**, £800. canali.com

Coat by **Ralph Lauren Purple Label**, £6,300. ralphlauren.co.uk

Jumper by **Junya Watanabe**, £535. At matchesfashion.com

Jacket by **Moncler**, £710. moncler.com

Trousers by **Massimo Alba**, £208. massimoalba.com

Boots by **Berluti**, £1,710. berluti.com

Sunglasses by **Bottega Veneta**, £250. bottegaveneta.com

Gloves by **Mulberry**, £225. At Harrods. harrods.com

Photograph **Rex/Shutterstock**

Beachside relaxation at Le Saint Géran resort in Mauritius

MAURITIUS

Opulence in every corner of the globe

One&Only is adding urban destinations, nature resorts and private homes to its portfolio. What's more – it is transforming the iconic Mauritian beach resort, One&Only Le Saint Géran, into something truly spectacular

There's getting away from it all, and then there's really getting away from it all. One&Only has long been known for its captivating beach resorts, including the stunning One&Only Reethi Rah in the Maldives, but it is now also expanding its portfolio to include buzzing urban spaces, as well as breathtaking nature resorts, such as the 7,000-acre Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley conservancy reserve in the Greater Blue Mountains, Australia. If you're the sort of person who never wants their holiday to end, it is also offering One&Only private homes – with the first ones launching for sale at One&Only Le Saint Géran.

One of the many jewels in its crown is the entirely transformed One&Only Le Saint Géran. Located on a pristine private peninsula lapped by the warm ocean, it's known as the "Grande Dame" of Mauritius and the place we'd all rather be on a cold winter morning. The legendary resort now encompasses a contemporary, beach-inspired aesthetic which perfectly complements the lovingly preserved colonial-style architecture.

Spectacular beaches and sparkling pools, world-class restaurants and heavenly spas are just some of the spaces that invite you to soak up the energy that abounds. Spaces where you can just simply be "you". Mesmerising views are framed by disappearing glass, or can be enjoyed al fresco on private terraces, in secluded spa gardens or from the gorgeous outdoor dining areas. The new facilities transform the peninsula into an idyllic playground, with a cutting-edge fitness centre, water sports and an all-new family pool and yoga spot. Now, isn't there somewhere you'd rather be?

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways and Air Mauritius both fly direct from London to Mauritius (from £583; airmauritius.com)

PERU

On the rails, and off the beaten track

GQ takes a whistle-stop tour of breathtaking country on Belmond's Andean Explorer

STORY BY **Bill Prince**

The journey to Cusco had been rather eventful for the small party of Americans that joined *GQ*'s train ride to the shores of Lake Titicaca. A snake on the plane had necessitated an unnerving aircraft change en route to Lima while the freeloading reptile was found and removed.

By contrast, *GQ*'s passage to Peru was uneventful: a 12-hour flight from London Heathrow; an overnight stay at the Belmond Miraflores Park hotel; a 90-minute flight to Cusco, which – once the centre of Incan civilisation – is now a base for those exploring the Inca Trail by road or onboard Belmond's latest luxury train, the Andean Explorer.

Belmond (formerly Orient-Express) has operated a train between Cusco and its two Machu Picchu properties since 2003, contributing some *belle époque* glamour to the backpacker/bucket list destination.

The Andean Explorer is one of a kind, offering one- and two-night trips aboard a state-of-the-art train that once served

A train runs through it: The Andean Explorer sweeps through Peru on one of the world's highest rail routes

passengers on OE's Great South Pacific Express route. When that business wound up in 2003, the rolling stock was shipped to Peru and refurbished to create more passenger space in each of the cabins and make room for a staff of 35 and what must be the most enticing bar car in history.

In order to match the experience to the amenities, Belmond then partnered with PeruRail to create a one-of-a-kind route through the Peruvian Highlands, with stopovers at Puno, on the shores of Lake Titicaca, and an embarkation point for a Belmond property at Colca Canyon, home to the Andean condor.

GQ opted for the two-night trip, possibly the most convivial commute in the world. The train leaves Cusco at lunchtime, with a maximum 48 passengers united less by a need to tick the box than to unwind in consummate comfort and stellar scenery. We weren't disappointed.

After a preprandial cocktail (a Pisco Sour, but then, when in Peru) and a light lunch, the first stop was the Incan settlement of Raqchi, all that remains of eight large buildings built by the Incas during their imperial phase.

By the time the conquistadors arrived (1562), the empire was believed to be the largest in the world – a 3,500 mile-long land-grab achieved without any wheeled transport, let alone animals large enough to pull it. Fortunately, the Explorer has two diesel locomotives that make light work of our inexorable climb into the high Andes.

The sun was already setting by the time we pulled up at our next stop. The highest point on our route to Titicaca, »

Station masters: The luxury sleeper crosses the Peruvian Andes at more than 3,000 metres above sea level; (below) inside the train's Piano Bar

» La Raya, home to a small Spanish church, in front of which were a dozen stalls selling cashmere and vicuña. It was a shrewd move: as the light fell and the temperature with it, business was brisk.

Dinner was served as we gently rocked our way towards Puno, the main point of entry for Titicaca, and consisted of alpaca tortellini and roast duck, as created by Belmond's consulting chef, Diego Muñoz.

After that, there was little to do but retire in readiness for daybreak over the lake itself: a once-in-a-lifetime moment that only a few passengers chose to enjoy from their cabins. Those that did brave the 2C chill were greeted with the truly memorable first sighting of a body of water that serves both as a natural border with Bolivia and an ecosystem by which many make their living. The most impressive of these must be the Uru, who reside three miles offshore on 42 floating "islands" built from the lake's tortora reed beds.

Titicaca is truly vast and our time allowed for only a short exploration of its crenelated coastline. But then, why float when you can ride? And as darkness fell, the Andean Explorer pulled out of Puno bound for its final stop just as a fiesta was getting underway in the dusk-cloaked streets, a seemingly endless parade of peacocking pageantry that was all the more perfect for its disarming lack of touristic "theatre".

The last stop was at the edge of another lake, Saracocha, this one similarly blessed with landing rights for what was apparently another unmissable sunrise (*GQ* missed it). From here, there was time to marvel at the 7,000-year-old Sumbay Cave drawings before we began the stately descent. In many ways, this final, undulating part of the journey is the highlight of the entire trip, an endless horizon of desert-dry grassland populated by wild vicuña, a spectacular diorama against which Muñoz's epic cuisine did well to distract us.

Peru's second city, Arequipa, was the final stop ahead of a late-night flight to Lima and a day spent exploring Miraflores and the bohemian district of Barranco, home to Mate, the art gallery of Peru's most famous son, Mario Testino. Not to be missed, rather like the Belmond Andean Explorer. GQ

BILL PRINCE'S TRAVEL TIPS

What to do
Belmond offers five-day journeys from £2,275 per person, including two nights B&B at Belmond Hotel Monasterio and two nights aboard the Andean Explorer. belmond.com

What to see
Excursions include visits to the Inca site of Raqchi and the ancient Sumbay Caves, and a city tour of Arequipa.

What to pack
Anti-altitude sickness remedies (but, just in case, there's a nurse on board).

How to get there
British Airways flies from London to Lima from £675 return. ba.com

MALTA

The real Mediterranean love island

Malta has long been one of Europe's best-kept secrets, but a burgeoning reputation as a holiday and wedding destination means word is getting out...

With its prime location in the heart of the Mediterranean, just a three hour flight from London, Malta is ideally placed for a short-haul city break. For those in the know, the island nation has a reputation as one of Europe's most closely guarded secrets – a place where you can explore a deep and fascinating culture while also enjoying over 300 days of sunshine a year. The capital Valletta will be the European Capital of Culture 2018, so it will soon be the destination your friends will be surprised you haven't visited yet. The idyllic island's reputation has grown fast, helped by its popularity as a wedding and honeymoon destination. Predominantly English-speaking and LGBT friendly, with a wide range of boutique venues and hotels to suit all budgets, Malta has become a natural choice for those who want to celebrate their big day under the Mediterranean sun.

Explore a deep and fascinating culture while also enjoying over 300 days of sunshine

Valletta itself is also an ideal city break destination. The waterfront boasts a fascinating history, having been influenced by every empire who hoped to control the seas around the island. This legacy can be seen everywhere from the high baroque St John's Co-Cathedral, which features one of Caravaggio's finest work, to the British Empire-era red phone boxes that dot the streets.

Throw in the superb cuisine and wine and year-round warm weather and it's a wonder that Malta's secret has lasted so long.

To learn more about visiting Malta, head to maltauk.com

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways, Air Malta, Easyjet, Ryanair, TUI, Jet2.com and Thomas Cook all fly direct from the UK to Malta.

Photographs @BeautifulDestinations

Macao's glittering skyline blends the ultra-modern with the traditional

MACAO

The stopover you won't want to end

Just 40 miles from Hong Kong lies Macao, a pearl of luxury on the South China Sea with a rich Portuguese-Chinese heritage, world class cuisine and a sparkling entertainment scene

After a long-haul flight, it's natural to want to make the most of your time away. Whether you're on a work trip to Hong Kong or heading all the way down to Australia or New Zealand, it's tempting to postpone your return for a few days to relax and eat some great food. After all, haven't you earned it?

With a burgeoning reputation as a premier stopover location, Macao is the perfect place to unwind during your travels. Filled with luxury resorts and glittering nightlife, it's also blessed with a unique culture.

Spectacular shows, a legendary food scene and World Heritage architecture: there's something to suit every palate

The city's rich Portuguese-Chinese heritage can be experienced through the legendary food scene. From dim sum and noodles to sardines and chorizo, Portuguese, Chinese and the local Macanese cuisines make for unmissable meals, whether you're eating street food or dining at one of the 19 Michelin-starred restaurants.

But it's not all about the food. Ranged over eleven square miles, Macao is easy to explore yet has something for everyone. Whether it's the world's highest bungee jump, November's Macao Grand Prix, spectacular shows, laid back beaches or stunning World Heritage-listed architecture, you're sure to find something that suits your palate. Now that's got to be worth extending your trip for...

With its new daily service from Manchester, Cathay Pacific offers 49 weekly non-stop flights between the UK and Hong Kong. Visit cathaypacific.co.uk

Macao's bustling street life

Chinese New Year lanterns

HOW TO GET THERE

Fly directly into Macao from around the region or take the one-hour fast ferry from Hong Kong. Find out more about visiting Macao at macaotourism.gov.mo

Men on a mission: Mark Hix with hunting guide Oliver Rampley in Florence; (right) Tuscan restaurant Il Latini

ITALY

On the hunt for a taste of Tuscany

In the land (and sea) where cuisine and culture meet, GQ puts boar and barracuda on the menu

STORY BY **Mark Hix**

With a few hours to spare before heading to Tuscany to fish and shoot wild boar with Oliver Rampley, I took a stroll down to Columbia Road in East London. The first place I stepped into had two wild boar "glug jugs" staring at me from the shelf. I've collected all sorts of different glug jugs over the years, but I've never seen a boar one. Seeing this as some kind of lucky charm, I bought the pair – one for me and one for Oliver.

Spice it up: Florence's San Lorenzo Market

Day 1

Oliver is a hunting, shooting and fishing guide who has just set up his new specialist business, Altana Europe, in Florence and he'd arranged for us to stay in the city's beautiful Hotel Palazzo Guadagni. After checking in, we went for dinner at Il Latini, a huge restaurant with an old courtyard that's full of Tuscan charm. I left Oliver to order and he chose a fantastic rabbit gnocchi, followed by the classic bistecca alla Fiorentina – the perfect welcome supper for our first night in Tuscany.

Outside Il Latini, I spotted a beautifully mounted display of vintage corkscrews – an inspiration for a collector and eBay addict such as myself. Over the next 48 hours, I amassed about 40 real beauties.

Day 2

The next morning, we hit the indoor San Lorenzo Market, which I had visited many years ago and remembered vividly a breakfast at Da Nerbone kiosk of *panino con lampredotto*, a delicious sandwich filled with tripe. After last night's Negronis, a rematch was in order.

I was determined to cook a boar whether I shot it or not and for some reason I had curry in mind, which isn't something Italians tend to eat. But the market has everything and Oliver led me to a fantastic spice trader who had just about everything I needed.

With our spices, vegetables, herbs, luggage and fishing kit carefully packed into the boot of our car, we headed to our next stop, Hotel Il ››

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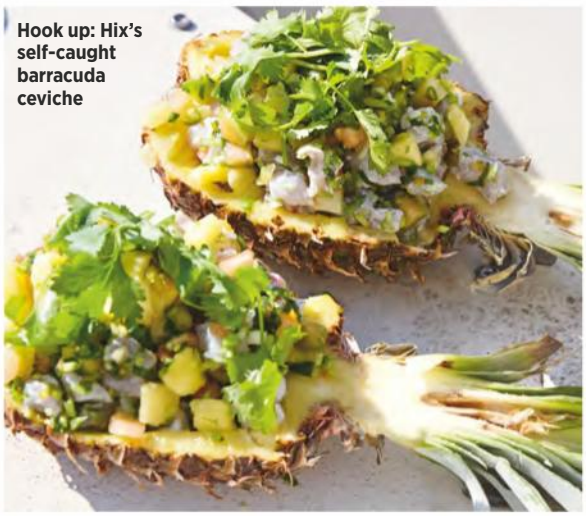
Soak up the scene: Coastline lounging and al fresco dining (below) at Hotel Il Pellicano near Porto Ercole



Hook up: Hix's self-caught barracuda ceviche

›› Pellicano, a sophisticated resort nestled in the hills overlooking Porto Ercole, where we were to go saltwater fishing.

That evening, we had dinner cooked by chef Sebastiano Lombardi in the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant, where I was presented with a two-page "water list". A Dorset lad who was brought up on water straight from the tap, I nevertheless ended up ordering a Speyside and a local water, Lauretana.

Day 3

Apart from the great hospitality, food and wine, the purpose of our visit was of course to catch and shoot something. We spent our first hour fishing for European barracuda in the harbour, where these ferocious pike-like fish were plentiful. Within half an hour, I hooked one and pulled it aboard the boat and into the fish locker. It was a good-sized fish, so that was a few lunches and supper potentially sorted. Next, we headed out of the harbour to fish for baby garfish, but had no luck so returned to nail another barracuda and a bluefish.

I always like to anticipate a meal to cook with what I catch and, in this case, I had a ceviche in mind. Sadly the produce in the port wasn't so inspiring, but luckily we had our stash of coriander and chillies for the curry in the cool box, so I grabbed green tomatoes, spring onions and a pineapple (to serve it in) from the corner shop and some tequila from the hotel to splash into the ceviche.

After our fishing expedition, we set off on our next adventure to visit some friends of Oliver's, Aurelio and Serenella, in the uplands of the Alpe Della Luna ("Alp of the Moon"), on a remote estate on the Umbria-Tuscany border dedicated to hunting.

Arriving at a hunting estate here bears no resemblance whatsoever to rocking up to a posh shoot in the UK. There's a little shop where you can buy local wine and boar charcuterie, as well as vegetables, fruits, dried mushrooms and soaps all produced in the area. Here, we soon ran into some local hunters holding an intriguing-looking bow known as a "solo cam". This is the purist's alternative to hunting boar with a rifle and, although not compatible with Oliver's more clinical and professional approach, is an intriguing method nonetheless.

I'd only ever shot at a boar once before, about 20 years ago in France, which I missed by about a foot. But after a little light-footed stalking, I managed to dispatch one with my first bullet. This is an experience that's miles apart from shooting game birds and having a bird just drop at your feet. It was only after lumping it onto the Land Rover that I could even think about how I was going to prepare it with the spices we'd brought along.

Once Oliver had skinned our kill, we left it to hang overnight.

Day 4

The butchery process certainly gets you thinking about the menu ahead. I started breaking the boar down into the various joints and muscles required to prepare our supper.

Next, I singled out muscles in the joints that needed very little cooking, and tougher muscles that needed a ››

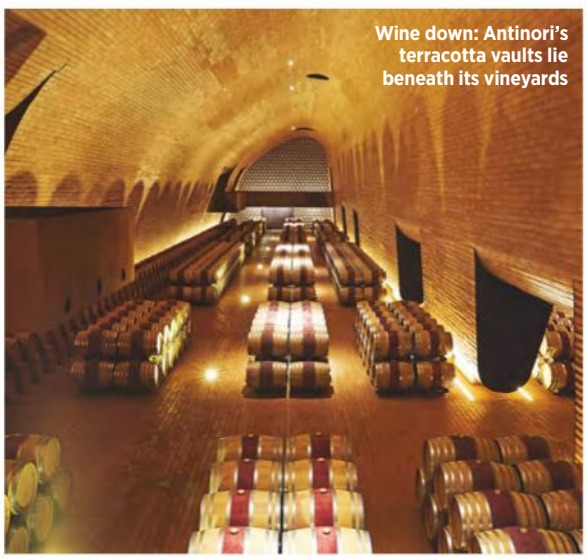
Make the cut: Hix prepares the boar he shot on the Alpe Della Luna

›› slow cook. I used the tougher cuts, finely chopped, in a simple keema curry with dried myrtle berries, cooked some tandoori-style chops from the saddle and made a poky mulligatawny soup to start. The barracuda made for a delicious, fragrant, creamy coconut curry and the small bluefish cooked whole produced a firm, textured tandoori.

Day 5

On our way back to Florence, we stopped at the renowned Antinori Winery in Bargino, a museum-like establishment that's been cleverly co-designed by Marco Casamonti to disappear into its hilly surrounds. Our winery tour was led by Marchesa Allegra Antinori, the queen bee of the company's 26th generation (it is the tenth oldest family-owned company in the world). After the tour, we sneaked off to one of the winery's private tasting rooms and tried some of their best and recent vintages.

But apart from the great wines, there was something else that really excited me: the oak wine shelves. They since inspired me to ask my builders to make replicas from old scaffold planks for my new flat in Bermondsey. Thanks to Antinori, these have become a talking point – so if you spot me in a building site, I'm likely foraging for scaffold planks! **GQ**



Wine down: Antinori's terracotta vaults lie beneath its vineyards

MARK HIX'S TRAVEL TIPS

How to get there
GQ travelled to Tuscany with Altana Europe. +39 39 26 95 87 32. altanaeurope.com

What to do
Altana Europe create unique Italian experiences, based around fishing, bird-watching and conservation management. Freshwater fishing from £535 per day; saltwater fishing from £935 per day; wild boar hunting trips start from £1,600 for 24 hours (excluding accommodation). Altana Europe can also arrange visits to the Antinori Winery (*antinori.it*) at Bargino.

Where to eat
Il Latini, Via dei Palchetti, 6R, 50123 Florence. +39 055 210916. illatini.com

Where to stay
Hotel Il Pellicano, Località Sbarcatello, 58019 Porto Ercole. From £410 a night. +39 056 485 8111. pellicanohotels.com

When to visit
Either side of summer (April to June and September to October) offers more comfortable temperatures and fewer crowds.

Photographs Katrina Lawson Johnston

Sandals Emerald Bay Resort sits on a pristine, mile-long beach

BAHAMAS

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At Sandals Emerald Bay Golf, Tennis & Spa Resort in the Bahamas, the most difficult decision on the daily agenda is: golf course, tennis court, spa or beach?

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For true relaxation, you may decide to spend some time at the Red Lane® Spa facility, which sprawls over 16,000 sq ft and has 17 relaxing treatment rooms. Or just use your time to really enjoy the powdery beach and take advantage of access to complimentary scuba diving* and other water sports.

Accommodation, naturally, is either on the beach itself or a short stroll away, and there are 12 Five-Star Global Gourmet™ restaurant options and five bars serving premium brand

beverages. There's also free Wi-Fi throughout the resort, but take our advice: leave the hard choices to those back in the office, and reserve your online time for the odd photo demonstrating the unarguable wisdom of your own latest decision.

Visit sandals.co.uk or call 0800 742 742

HOW TO GET THERE

You can fly from London to the island of Great Exuma via Nassau with British Airways. Airport transfers are provided.

*cost includes two free dives per day for certified divers

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News Spas

Where travel writers go to relax: From four-hands massage to reiki healing, Asia's great spas are a short plane hop apart

STORY BY **Jeff Mills**

They take spas seriously in Southeast Asia, but then if you are flying for the best part of a day to reach your destination you are entitled to expect something very different when you arrive. Still, the JW Marriott Emerald Bay on the Vietnamese island of Phu Quoc is a bit of a shock.

Newly built, it's known as "Lamarck University", a fictional seat of learning, born in the mind of American architect Bill Bensley. It's an extraordinary vision, and one that works astonishingly well.

The architecture reflects the "history" of Lamarck University, which, the mythical story goes, sprang out of the ruins of a French colonial university abandoned in the Forties. The result is a mixture of grand pavilions, many of which named after university faculties, with a superb beach and a main street that the unkind might say would suit a Disney theme park – but with far more style.

It is near the main street, with its small shops and restaurants, that you find Chanterelle, one of the best-equipped spas, with the most welcoming staff, you will come across anywhere.

This is the time for gently easing into the Asian spa regime – there will be time for the hard-core stuff later. Treatments here include a Phu Quoc herbal wrap to ease muscle pain, and a Seventies-style sports therapy that unwinds strain and restores balance.

If you opt for the Vietnamese signature four-hands massage, where two therapists work in unison on various pressure points with a gentle chopping massage technique and synchronised strokes across your body, you may start praying that the experience will never end.

Alternatively, enjoy a session on mindfulness, clear your mind by breathing in the aroma of camomile, petit grain and rosemary, undergo an aromatherapy mud wrap, try energy-healing reiki, then finish with an invigorating body polish, during which you will be exfoliated with coffee and salts rich in minerals and trace elements.

After all that, you will be ready for a drink on the terrace overlooking the sea and dinner at one of the four restaurants, such as the aptly named Tempus Fugit. After all, you will find that time really does fly at this resort.

For hard-core treatments taken very seriously, though still in extreme luxury, you'll need to get a plane ››

Steam in: Chanterelle at JW Marriott Emerald Bay is one of the best-equipped spas in the world

» back to Ho Chi Minh, then on to Cam Ranh Airport and transfer to the simply outstanding Amanoi, surrounded by the Nui Chua National Park on the shore of Vinh Hy Bay.

There's no messing around at the Amanoi. I may be staying in a luxurious two-storey spa house pavilion, with its own private pool and treatment room with a view over the lake and the mountains beyond, but there's no escaping the fact that health and fitness are what motivates the one per centers checking in here.

I have already been sent a questionnaire about my health and what I would like to achieve and first it's a face-to-face meeting with the Amanoi's "immersion director" to discuss my specially tailored wellness immersion programme.

My diet sorted and my goals discussed (ahem, weight management), my days are punctuated by two or three therapy and movement sessions, as well as acupuncture, hydrotherapy, holistic stretching, craniosacral therapy, reiki and, of course, treatments in the resort's blissful state-of-the-art Aman Spa. Oh, and three decent meals a day, each of which is carefully suited to my weight-loss needs. I don't even think about alcohol, which is just as well as there isn't any.

Great emphasis is given to the eight branches of Taoist practice – the mind, mindful exercise, diet, herbs, feng shui, geomancing, physical manipulation and acupuncture – but it all boils down to life coaching: you leave the Amanoi with a clear plan for continuing the lifestyle changes you start here, assuming your self-discipline is up to the strict regime.

Back to the airport and on to Bangkok and what many consider the mother of all Asian luxury hotels, the Mandarin Oriental, and a room in the newly refurbished Authors' Wing, part of the original hotel, which started life in the middle of the 19th century as a rest house for foreign seafarers on the banks of the Chao Phraya River.

Emphasis is given to Taoist practices

The Oriental Spa, built around a beautifully restored 100-year-old traditional teakwood house, really is something to experience, starting with the boat trip from the hotel's jetty on one of the glossily varnished and pampered private boats that have plied this route for decades.

Ancient natural Thai herb remedies, massage, hydrotherapy and meditation are on the agenda in this haven of tranquillity, where rituals of the East rub along happily with state-of-the-art Western treatments.

And after you've been cleansed, polished and fed (the Spa boasts a couple of excellent restaurants) hit the town. After all, tempus fugit and all that... GQ

JEFF MILLS' TRAVEL TIPS

Where to stay
Healing Holidays offers: a five-night stay at the JW Marriott Phu Quoc Emerald Bay & Spa from £1,699 per person, including flights and return private transfers; a five-night Wellness Immersion stay at the Amanoi Vietnam from £5,689 per person, including flights, return private transfers, full-board accommodation, wellness consultations, group classes and spa immersion programme; and a three-night stay at the Mandarin Oriental Bangkok from £1,669 per person, including flights, return private transfers and Perfect Day spa programme. 020 7843 3597. healingholidays.co.uk.

What to do
Bangkok's many tailors will still fit you for a suit or two and deliver just hours later.

How to get there
Vietnam Airlines flies from London Heathrow to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City from £462 return. vietnamairlines.com

PENTAHOTELS

Out of the ordinary

Forget staying at the usual, identical hotel chains: pentahotels is shaking things up with its unique designs, the latest games and unmissable comfort food

Whether you're travelling for business or pleasure, too often hotels feel like they can get away with only offering the bare minimum of food, shelter and maybe a dodgy coffee maker. Thankfully, that's not the case with pentahotels. In its 28 offerings, spread across seven countries and two continents, it is leading a design revolution which is challenging all the workday clichés we've come to accept from hotels.

pentahotels is leading a design revolution across seven countries and two continents

For a start, the austere check-in desk is gone, replaced with pentalounge. You can pick up your keys at the bar, along with a drink, in a space that feels like a luxury living room – complete with well-designed furniture, free Wi-Fi and game consoles.

Indeed, gamers are well catered for thanks to the launch of its new suites, penta PlayerPad (*top right*). Kitted out with a pinball machine, table football and a Sony PlayStation 4, these rooms are the perfect place to relax and keep your inner child entertained when you're on the road.

When the people at pentahotels say, "We Don't Do Normal", they mean it.

And when it comes to food, pentalounge takes gastronomic comforts to the next level – including a Penta Heart Attack Burger (*above*) which comes with double beef patties stacked with grilled bacon, melted cheddar cheese and a sensational homemade sauce.

So why bother settling for the norm? Be warned though, checking out is harder once you've checked in – are you ready?'

HOW TO GET THERE

There are pentahotels in Austria, Belgium, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hong Kong and the UK. Head to pentahotels.com for more information.

#greatstaysoftheworld

A historic Swiss spa gets its well-deserved close-up

STORY BY **Bill Prince**

Waldhaus Flims Alpine Grand Hotel & Spa reopened in February 2017 after an extensive £33 million renovation – just in time to benefit from its starring role in *Youth*, Paolo Sorrentino's late-life comedy-drama featuring Sir Michael Caine and Harvey Keitel as jousting septuagenarians determined to waylay the inexorable march of time. They'd definitely come to the right place: this historic wellness retreat 85 miles from Zurich won Best Spa In Switzerland at this year's European Health & Spa Awards, testament to the range of treatments available, vast dining offer (including a new chalet-style après-ski bar called the Summit at the hotel, and a fondue restaurant located in the underground cellar called Il Tschaler) and a choice between four- and five-star accommodation split between the Grand Hotel itself and the Villa Silvana and Chalet Belmont. Besides the slopes and extensive trails leading to spectacular vantage points overlooking "Europe's Grand Canyon" (the Ruinaulta gorge, which is not to be missed), the real draw remains the Spa itself – 2,800 sq metres of treatment rooms and relaxation areas summiting with the finest indoor/outdoor pool to be found anywhere higher than 1,081 metres. **GQ**

BA flies to Zurich from London City Airport and London Heathrow, from £39. ba.com

From £507 a night in the Grand Hotel; from £469 a night in Chalet Belmont; from £430 a night in Villa Silvana. Via dil Parc 3, 7018 Flims Waldhaus. +41 81 928 48 48. waldhaus-flims.ch/en

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THERESA... HE'S WAITING

ELECTION SPECIAL

A mere 18 months ago Jeremy Corbyn was the 200/1 outside hope for Labour's next leader. And yet were the government to crumble tomorrow, pollsters would expect him to seize the keys to Number Ten. With exclusive access to the only man with momentum in British politics, GQ asks: how on earth did that happen?

STORY BY **Stuart McGurk**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **Marco Grob**

CREATIVE DIRECTION BY **Paul Solomons**

STYLING BY **Luke Day**

Each morning when Jeremy Corbyn wakes, he does not, as one might suspect of the leader of a major political party, habitually turn on Radio 4 and listen to the *Today* programme, something most in politics do before they rub the sleep from their eyes. He will turn it on occasionally if there's something specific he wants to follow, but "by no means every day… We don't obsessively listen, as many political households do." Instead, he says, he will listen to Radio 3 or Classic FM. His wife of five years, Laura Alvarez, will often put on Magic and a morning turf war will begin ("We have a dispute about this").

He will not, as many politicians might, obsessively scan the morning papers, as he "doesn't particularly like to wake up like that". Instead, he will check the BBC website, quickly click on some others and simply see what aides have sent him by email. He won't turn on the TV and, indeed, is not always entirely sure what TV channels would be available if he did. Just recently, he says, he was hunting for Al Jazeera, only to be informed by his wife they don't have that channel. "I thought we had because we've got it here," he says, meaning his office.

It is a routine, he points out, "most households" have, which, depending on your point of view, is either refreshing (an everyman not obsessed with the Westminster bubble) or maddening (an idealist unengaged with detail and process), but rarely anywhere in between.

He will set off for work not, as he used to, on his Raleigh 300 bike – at £400, he tells me, it's the most expensive item he's ever purchased – because these days he tends to find himself mobbed and so will, instead, be picked up by an official car and allow himself to be spirited to Westminster and the offices of the leader of the opposition, offices that, after 32 years as an MP, he had never seen before he entered them as leader.

Corbyn's office is a small room, around three by three metres, with a single window that overlooks the Thames. It contains a desk, a small round meeting table with four chairs, a bathroom and not a lot else. It is not the traditional office for his post. That room – the one used by Ed Miliband and David Cameron, Tony Blair and Michael Howard – is a grand corner office just down the corridor, more than three times the size, plus balcony. It is now a meeting room.

Corbyn, ever the egalitarian, felt this office was too big for him; he felt, he told aides, "like a prisoner in a gilded cage". And so, after less than a week, he decided to move next door, to an annexe at the back of the main Labour operations office, into what is, by comparison, a glorified broom cupboard.

He will often catch up with his executive director of strategy and communications, Seumas Milne, who will walk from his office two doors down – one that wasn't supposed to be his either, he was meant to move into the Labour press office, but one he sequestered when he arrived that no one now holds much hope of him leaving – to the office of his boss, one several times smaller than his own, and the hostile takeover of Jeremy Corbyn will continue.

Just six months ago, the idea of Corbyn becoming prime minister seemed laughable. Just a year before that, the idea that a far-left backbench MP who had rebelled against his own party more than 400 times would be Labour leader seemed absurd. Yet, according to the polls, if an election was called tomorrow, Labour would win – and win comfortably.

To the delight of some, and the horror of others, Jeremy Corbyn really could be our next prime minister – and perhaps the most unlikely one in modern political history.

"And the great thing is," says the 68-year-old with a smile, "I've got the youth to do it."

It is impossible, in 2017, not to have an opinion about Jeremy Corbyn. He is a conversation-starter and a relationship-ender. He is a political Rorschach test in human form. To his detractors, he is an out-of-touch socialist peddling the same failed policies of nationalisation and vast public spending (the 2017 Labour manifesto detailed £48.6 billion, covering everything from scrapping tuition fees to increasing funding for schools, the NHS and the police force) without a clear plan for how to pay for it all. To his supporters, he is a rare politician in touch with the prevailing winds of anti-austerity and anti-establishment, who tapped into a general feeling that we are failing the generation to come and that technology, far from making the economy fairer, is hollowing it out: the rich are only getting richer; the poor are poorer still.

Corbyn is said to have turned to Milne and said, 'That's it, Seumas. I've had enough'

For both, it is essentially an argument about the significance of the past. Are Corbyn's idealistic supporters forgetting the economic reality of the Seventies? Or are his detractors naive in assuming that the failures of one era are still relevant four decades and a technological revolution later?

I meet Corbyn in his office in mid-October. He is kindly and soft-spoken and shakes my hand like a man who has been handed a particularly ripe piece of fruit.

"This debate is now about injustice and inequality," he says. "Two years ago it would have been about benefits scroungers. We've changed the language and changed the mood. Labour is in good heart."

Corbyn never set out to be an MP, let alone the PM. Once elected, arriving in 1983 at the age of 34 alongside a 30-year-old Tony Blair, he stood for election to various committees but found little favour at any of them: "I stood for the parliamentary committee on a few occasions… I was not successful… I stood for the national executive… I was not successful…"

Mostly, he resigned himself to serving the constituents of Islington North and the politics of protest for various left-wing causes – the long grass, or the long game, depending on your point of view.

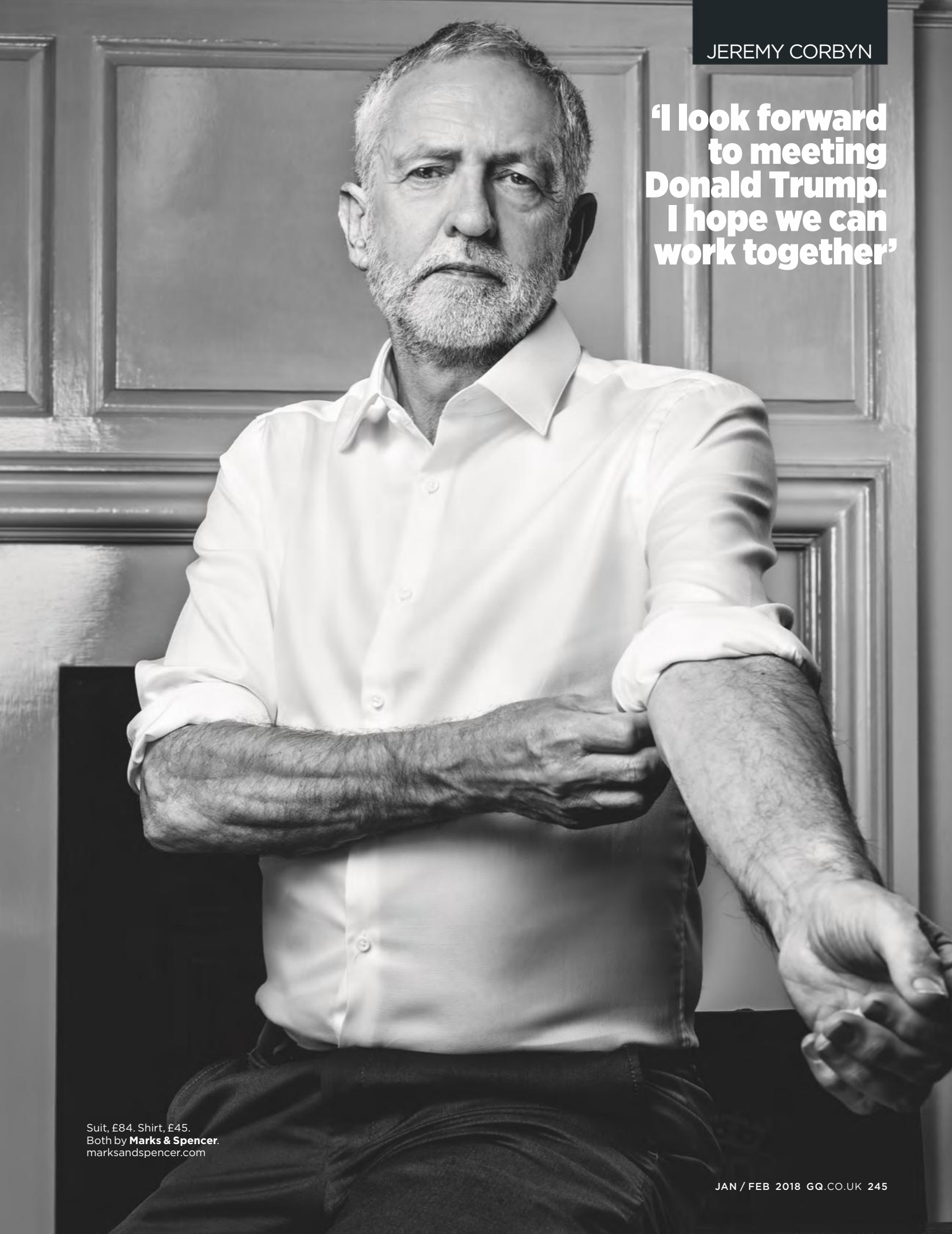
Even after he announced his intention to run in the 2015 leadership election, following Ed Miliband's general election defeat, there was no real expectation of victory: "If I'd have announced I was expecting to win, people would have looked at me funny."

The bookies gave him 200/1.

"To begin with, it was me and my credit card. That lasted a week. A few train tickets and hotels, it was gone." When the GMB leadership conference called and asked if he'd attend their hustings in Dublin, his reply was, "Who's paying for the ticket?" But slowly, the funding did come and the momentum built. He remembers one campaign event that took place on a Sunday morning at an arts centre in Nottingham. They expected a small gathering but found, half an hour before it began, people already spilling out into the street. "And we realised how strong our support was."

The route from dishevelled rebel to »

‘I look forward to meeting Donald Trump. I hope we can work together’



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marksandspencer.com

›› Candidate Corbyn has not been an easy one. A permanent protestor, he was never a natural leader. Early PMQs were bloodbaths. There have been widespread accusations that anti-Semitism – under the guise of Free Palestine politics – has become rife, without Corbyn doing anything about it.

Former journalistic colleagues of Milne's tell me that, in assessing potential leaders from the Labour left after Miliband's loss, Milne had been heard to dismiss Corbyn as "wholly unsuited" to the task.

Even altering his wardrobe, after Milne joined Corbyn's camp following his most unlikely leadership victory, was a struggle. In his first faltering Labour conference speech, his outfit of light-brown jacket and red tie was compared by the tabloids, not entirely inaccurately, to that of Mr Bean. On both of the occasions that I meet him, I notice his tie is balled up and spilling out of his jacket pocket, only to be worn when he is in the Commons Chamber and then taken off and balled up again when he is not.

I ask about the process of his team getting him to wear suits.

"It was a very painful process," he says. "The amount of blood that has been on this table… These arguments…" He looks across the table at the two press aides who are sitting in. "Put your hands up!" he says. He looks back at me. "There's been discussions. Heavy discussions. My sons are also involved."

Is it everyone against you?

"Yes… Yes… My only ally is a four-legged friend at home."

How many suits do you own now?

"Three," he says. "I bought them myself."

Like most things about Corbyn, the 2017 election outcome is a different result depending on who you talk to. For Labour, it was Schrödinger's election: it both was and wasn't a defeat. On the one hand, from a prediction of complete wipeout, they gained 30 seats, increased the youth vote from 47 to 60 per cent, energised the left, gave hope to the disadvantaged and gave the lie to the dogma that to achieve from the left you must pander to the centre. On the other hand, well, they lost.

After the 2010 election, which saw Gordon Brown's Labour trail Cameron's Tories by 48 seats, Corbyn wrote in the *Morning Star* that the result was "disastrous for New Labour".

The 2017 election saw Corbyn's Labour trail Theresa May's Tories by 55 seats. Why wasn't that disastrous for Corbyn? "The popular vote was much higher," he says. "And in a sense that this election was a concentration into two-party politics."

Why does he think Labour didn't win? After all, in May, he was up against one of the most questionable Conservative leaders in decades.

He sighs and talks a little about it being a snap election and how the London media got carried away with Labour being wiped out, before saying, "Had the election campaign been slightly longer, I'm convinced we'd have got an overall majority."

Just that? More time?

"More time and at least a degree of reasonableness in the treatment of the Labour Party. Because the message that we're putting out on austerity hasn't fundamentally changed. There's been an enormous barrier in getting it across, but now I think a lot of people understand what we're saying and why we're saying it."

And now, of course, finally, the media are taking Corbyn seriously.

Before we meet, I sit in on PMQs and watch him take May to task over Universal Credit. It's a Labour victory on the economy that the *New Statesman* describes as "the political equivalent of an away victory".

Yet it's fair to say it's the economy, more than any other issue, that divides people on Corbyn.

'I said the Iraq war would unleash terror. And look what's happened'

In the Labour manifesto, the eye-catching £48.6bn in spending will be paid for by, among other things, a tax hike for high earners and corporations. "Otherwise, what do we go with?" says Corbyn. "A perpetual decline where everything is charged for or is not available? Because we're not prepared to put taxation at the top end and for big corporations to pay for the services we need?"

Which is all well and good, but it assumes it won't scare off businesses, or even people, as happened in the Seventies. This time, Corbyn's Labour seems to say, it'll be different.

The manifesto also states £6.5bn will be saved by clamping down on tax avoidance, so I ask what he'd do regarding a company such as Amazon – a giant that keeps profits artificially low to price out its competition and gain market share. The result is that despite reporting a UK revenue of £7.3bn last year, it made a pre-tax profit of just £24 million. And, of course, it pays tax on the latter.

"You do it with a combination of tax havens," he begins, "and what they do…"

But particularly for Amazon's low-profit issue, I say.

"Amazon's case is… creating, as you say, an artificially low profit in one regime and an artificially high profit in another. Boots have done the same by…"

Sorry, I interject, *that's not actually what I'm saying. I'm saying they don't create a high profit anywhere.*

"You have to look at… a number of things… One of which is transfer of profits…"

But again, I persist, *that's not what I'm asking about.*

"In the case of Amazon… the issue of… the profitability of the company and the turnover is surely significant…"

So do you also tax on turnover?

"Well… we're looking at all of this. We don't have an answer on this at the moment. We're not pretending we have an answer on everything."

The worry with Corbyn is not, however, that he doesn't have all the answers. It's that, sometimes, he doesn't appear to have all the questions. He says he understands that the CBI will hardly be "rolling in the aisles when I tell them the level of corporation tax I think they should pay", so I ask who the business advisors of Corbyn's Labour are.

"Well, obviously that is done more through Becky Long-Bailey [the shadow secretary of state for business] and John McDonnell [the shadow chancellor] than me directly. They do have quite day-to-day relationships with unions and employers. I have met, and I will continue to meet, the CBI and Federation Of Small Businesses… Sometimes, actually, you learn an awful lot from meeting quite small but effective businesses and what they do."

Sure, I say, *but what about leaders of huge corporations? Are you asking for their input?*

"They would be, yes. They are all the time."

But I'd have to ask McDonnell for the names?

"You would really have to ask him, more than me, yes."

Corbyn was born in bohemian comfort to parents David, an engineer, and Naomi, a maths teacher. They had both trained as scientists, but met at a meeting of the Spanish Civil War Redress Committee in Holborn, Central London. Corbyn would later say the "committed socialists" had met "in solidarity". His father, meanwhile, would tell Corbyn's brother Piers that he mostly remembered "her hips" and that "she wore a hat".

Corbyn and his three siblings grew up in the kind of large country houses that had names rather than numbers. Piers remembers the first, Hillside House, in picturesque Kington St Michael, Wiltshire, as drafty, a condition not unrelated to the fact that when they moved in one side didn't have any windows. The second, Yew Tree Manor, in Shropshire, was grander still – when ››

‘I think my team all voted Remain. I haven’t asked them’

Suit, £199. Shirt, £45. Both by **Marks & Spencer**. marksandspencer.com

» Corbyn's father purchased it, it was being used as a seven-bedroom hotel; it had its own grounds and a paddock.

The young Corbyn was energised but no academic. He attended the conservative Adams' Grammer School in Newport and did not fit in. The teachers went shooting at the weekends; Corbyn joined the League Against Cruel Sports. The pupils enrolled in the Combined Cadet Force at 15; Corbyn joined the Campaign For Nuclear Disarmament instead. His long life as an outsider had begun. He joined Labour the following year.

"At school," he tells me, "I seemed to be in a minority on every subject. Every argument that came up, every debate that came up, I was in a minority of one usually, sometimes two. That was quite character forming." Even when it looked like he might win a debate, it turned out he couldn't. According to Rosa Prince's unofficial biography, *Comrade Corbyn*, one rival, a prefect, threatened fellow pupils with detention if they didn't vote his way. Once again, Corbyn lost.

He sat his A-levels, but emerged with just two Es. The headmaster told him, "You will never make anything with your life."

He applied to Oxford Brookes, at the time a polytechnic, but was denied.

And so he travelled. First, to Jamaica, as a VSO, "working there at schools and theatres and camps for polio victims. Then I went travelling around Latin America on my own, which was probably unwise, particularly as I didn't tell people where I was going."

In two years, he called his parents once – they were out.

When Corbyn returned, he worked a slew of different factory jobs, mostly in the Midlands, before becoming active in the unions and immersing himself in causes.

I ask what experience has been most formative in shaping his world-view.

He tells me about a time, before the Syrian Civil War, when he visited a refugee camp on the Iraq-Syria border. It was miserable, wet and cold. Refugees had taken to trying to heat their tents with gas fires, only to set them on fire and burn alive inside them. He remembers speaking to a young girl, around 14, who had lost family members. Corbyn asked, "What do you want to do in life?" She said, "I want to be a doctor." "And I just thought, 'Wow.' There she was, in a position of utter hopelessness. Anyone else would say, 'I just want to get out of this hellhole. I don't want to live in a tent.'"

The lesson Corbyn took is this: "Let's not judge people by their situation."

Corbyn met his first wife, Jane Chapman, in 1973. The next year, they campaigned together to become Haringey councillors and were elected and married in the same week.

The trouble with socialism, Oscar Wilde famously said, is that it takes too many evenings – and Corbyn seemingly used all of them. Politics became his life, but left room for little else. "He was out most evenings," Chapman would tell the *Daily Mail*. "When we weren't at meetings, he would go to Labour headquarters and do some photocopying." His lifelong friend Keith Veness would lend him books, only to find them returned unread. Chapman would later tell the *New Yorker*: "He never read anything. All the books were mine." They divorced in 1979.

What are you reading now?

No Need For Geniuses, he says, a pop-science book by Professor Stephen Jones about scientific advances during the French revolution. It is not a book he bought – he met Jones the month before, at London literary festival Archway With Words, who gave him a copy.

What about novels?

"Um, I'm not reading any novels. I'm just reading that."

Do you read novels?

"I'm not a massive novel reader. But I do… I like some of the classics. Graham Greene. I've always enjoyed *Madame Bovary*… And I like a lot of American and Russian novels."

'Every argument that came up, every debate, I was usually in a minority of one'

What's the last American novel you read?

"Probably *The Flivver King*," he says, referring to the Upton Sinclair novel about the lives of Ford factory workers, published in 1937.

Anything more contemporary?

"I haven't read any recent ones. Maybe I should."

What about your favourite film?

He sighs. "I'm not a great cinema attender."

The last film you saw?

"I haven't been to the cinema in ages."

Fair to say you're not a film fan then?

"I mean, I don't mind the cinema…"

In retrospect, I'm not sure what's stranger about this: that Corbyn can't name a single film or that he appears to be under the impression he must go to the cinema to watch one.

He does occasionally, he says, read poetry.

"Throughout the two leadership campaigns I read quite a lot of Oscar Wilde," he says. I expect him to reference that socialism quote, but he mentions something quite different.

"*De Profundis*," he says, which, of course, is Wilde's letter written while incarcerated in Reading Gaol.

Why particularly Wilde and De Profundis *during those times?*

"Because he was a brilliant and conflicted person," he says. "Such a genius in many ways. So badly treated."

By all accounts, Corbyn came closest to quitting directly after the Brexit vote. Following a campaign performance that many Remainers felt was tepid at best – not least compared to the energised Corbyn, who drew biblical crowds a year later for the general election – an astonishing eleven members of his shadow cabinet resigned on a single Sunday, one after the other, after Hillary Benn had been fired by Corbyn on the phone the night before, before he could officially quit himself. By the next day, another 28 frontbenchers left. By the end of the week, 65 had gone. It was the biggest mass-resignation in British political history. At PMQs, a visibly angry David Cameron, having already announced he would step down, admonished Corbyn at the dispatch box. Corbyn staying, he said, "might be in my party's interest. But it's not in the national interest. For heaven's sake, man, *go*!"

According to Tim Shipman's gripping account of the Brexit campaign, *All Out War*, Corbyn returned to his office looking like "a broken man". He is said to have turned to Milne and said, "That's it, Seumas. I've had enough." But Milne was not about to let him go so quietly. Over the next few days, Milne and McDonnell kept Corbyn in isolation, lest anyone should talk him into going. Even his son, Seb, was said to have pleaded with them: "Let my dad go." At the end of the week, Corbyn's aides briefed the *Observer* as to why they would not even let Tom Watson, Labour's deputy leader, meet him: "They want Watson to be on his own with Corbyn so that he can jab his finger at him. We are not letting that happen. He's a 70-year-old man. We have a duty of care." Apart from the fact they had got Corbyn's age wrong – he was 67 at the time – it only cemented what many in the Labour party already assumed. As Shipman writes, "The story contributed to the view in the PLP of Corbyn as a feeble leader surrounded by miniature Machiavellis."

Before I meet Corbyn, I contact a member of the Britain Stronger In Europe campaign, the official cross-party "Remain" campaign, which coordinated both the Conservative and Labour pro-EU efforts. In order to be candid, the individual spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Their office first reached out to Corbyn's in August 2015, a month before he was elected leader, "Just to say, you know, who knows what's going to happen with the leadership contest? We'd love to brief you on the campaign. And we didn't hear anything." It wasn't until the following March that they managed it, and with just one of Corbyn's staff. "So you're talking eight

months to have a single meeting. Whereas with the broader Labour In team, we were speaking to them every day." After that meeting, they never had another. Despite that, I'm told, Milne "insisted on being the person who signed off on all the Labour In press releases".

My source is in no doubt as to where the blame for Corbyn's poor performance lies.

"The Labour In campaign was thwarted again and again by Seumas. It was Seumas. There would be quotes that they wanted signed off, or they wanted Corbyn to say a certain thing. Or they wanted Corbyn to do a TV clip. And it wouldn't happen. Or we'd be given a day where the Labour Party would be in the news and they just wouldn't put a plan together. Or the plan would change at the last minute and the broadcasters would get hacked off. And I know it felt like sabotage to Brian Duggan and Patrick Heneghan [Labour In's organisers]. That was what they said to us at the time. Sabotage."

In *All Out War*, Alan Johnson – the frontman for Labour In – gives a specific example: "We kept trying to get [Corbyn] to say, 'That's why I am campaigning to Remain in the EU.' It's a simple sentence. It kept going into speeches, and it kept coming out."

So, I ask, *did that line get taken out?*

"I don't know what he says was taken out."

"That's why I am campaigning to Remain in the EU…"

"I don't know what he's talking about. I stood alongside him in St Pancras Station and said exactly that about why I'm campaigning to remain in the EU."

So Milne wouldn't have taken that line out?

"Well, I said it, so it can't have been taken out. I think it's extremely unhelpful and unfair for him [Johnson] to have said that."

After the interview, I struggle to find the event where Corbyn told me he said the line. I check in with his office and they send me a link. It was 22 June – the day before the referendum.

Corbyn has never shied away from pointing out the EU's failings. As far back as 1975, during the referendum vote on Britain's membership of the European Economic Community – what would later effectively become the EU – he voted against it and, like most of Corbyn's opinions, the suspicion is he has not appreciably changed it since.

Yet, with a Labour membership that is 90 per cent Remain and a support base that is 70 per cent Remain, politically, he had to at least be seen to be trying. The frustration stems from what he could have done if he'd actually tried.

"You look at the contrast with the general election, the thousands of people that he had out at rallies around the country," says the Stronger In insider, "and you wonder why he couldn't have done that at the referendum, why he couldn't have brought that energy. Because I think it would have been transformative actually."

Notoriously, in an appearance on Channel 4's *The Last Leg*, Corbyn said he was "seven, seven-and-a-half" out of ten on remaining in the EU. A ringing endorsement it was not.

"I recognised there were failings in the EU," he tells me now. "Failings of bureaucracy, failings of remoteness, and people were very angry about it. I, nevertheless, felt we should remain and reform the EU. Had the vote gone the other way, I would now be pressing the EU to reform on State Aid, to reform on investment. A lot of things."

Do you genuinely feel you did everything you could? That nothing was left in the tank?

"Two thirds of [Labour] voters supported the view taken by the Labour Party," he says simply. "I campaigned to lead the party on that position."

Corbyn has gone on the record to say that he personally voted Remain. But several members of the Remain campaign I spoke to told me they strongly suspected that his key advisors – Milne and Andrew Fisher – voted Leave.

So, I ask, *what did his top team vote?*

'It's a big gig, but you begin to feel sorry for the people around Theresa May'

"I think they all voted Remain," says Corbyn. "I haven't asked them."

You haven't discussed your Brexit votes with your key advisors?

"They all, as far as I know, campaigned for Remain. Yeah, they did."

But, I persist, *are you really saying you never once asked your director of strategy – the man who was in charge of your Brexit campaign events and speeches – which way he voted?*

"I wouldn't dream of asking him. As far as I'm concerned, we're here to develop a political agenda. That's what I'm doing. I don't ask my staff any personal questions."

To watch Corbyn give a speech is to understand him. But not for what he says, necessarily, more for how he says it.

It's just after midday at the main conference hall in Brighton in late September, and I'm standing in the wings. Corbyn is set to give what many hope will be a rousing conference speech. Advisors are in buoyant mood. This time last year, they say, it was terrible. "Everyone had wanted Owen Smith to win," one tells me, gloomily. But now, of course, everyone loves Corbyn. Everyone *really* loves Corbyn. There are Corbyn cups and Corbyn posters, Corbyn bags and Corbyn badges, Corbyn T-shirts and even Corbyn colouring books. And there is, of course, a Corbyn scarf with "Oh Jeremy Corbyn" knitted in. Many, despite the late-summer heat, have their scarfs with them.

Over the past three days in the conference hall, as the various speakers have taken to the stage, it hasn't taken much to set the crowd off. Often, his name doesn't even need to be mentioned. "And we owe it all to one man," someone on stage will say, and it begins, loud and in unison, like an invisible conductor has just given the signal, to the tune of "Seven Nation Army" by The White Stripes: "Ooohhh, Jeremy Corbyn… Ooohhh, Jeremy Corbyn…"

Even when someone makes the opposite point, it doesn't make a difference. "It's never down to one person," says one speaker. "And I think he'd be the first to…" But before the point is made, he's drowned out too. "Ooohhh, Jeremy Corbyn… Ooohhh, Jeremy Corbyn…"

Many in the press will call it cult-like, but I think this misses the point. It is no surprise it's a football chant and no coincidence it comes on a scarf. They are, simply, adoring fans, and with all the lack of critique that brings. If you support, you support unconditionally; in Corbyn's fanbase, as in Corbyn himself, there are no shades of grey.

If, to the membership, New Labour felt like they were cheering foreign imports, then now, finally, they get to cheer one of their own.

At the *Daily Mirror* party the night before – one of seven Corbyn would pop into – the band will play "Seven Nation Army" as he enters. At the Momentum event that same night – one people queued around the block to get into – he will arrive on stage in a fog of dry ice ("I must say, I quite like the idea of a meeting starting with a fog of dry ice," Corbyn later tells me).

Yet, to have a personality cult you first need a personality. Corbyn's appeal, meanwhile, is his lack of one. How can he be selling a lie? He's not even a salesman.

At the stage's side, his advisors come and go. Despite rumours he was preparing to quit, his head of events, Gavin Sibthorpe, author of the infamous "Sibthorpe Doctrine" ("The best way," he told a Vice documentary in 2016, would be to let Corbyn "fail in his own time") is here. As is James Schneider, the youthful former Momentum frontman, dressed head-to-toe in black, and carrying an A4 document case that's also black, save for a single Labour-red popper. He paces from backstage to the rear of the hall, then back again. Milne does the same, but he doesn't so much pace as glide. Backstage, there is a small room with a Labour podium to practice at, but I'm told Corbyn has his own personal one at his hotel room. At 11am this morning, his team suddenly realised the speech was too long and so had to swiftly cut 1,000 words. There ››

» was no time for another dry run. Finally, to rapturous applause, Corbyn takes the stage. The crowd are in thrall, but he is an odd public speaker. Corbyn either talks softly – almost a whisper at times – or he shouts, with almost nothing in between. He's either patiently explaining or angrily railing, but never, it seems, cajoling. This becomes clear when he talks of the shifting centre-ground in British politics.

"It is often said that elections can only be won from the centre ground," he says. "And in a way, that's not wrong. So long as it's clear that the political centre of gravity isn't fixed or unmovable. Nor is it where the establishment pundits like to think it is."

Put another way: Corbyn doesn't need to move to the centre, the centre will come to him.

"We are now," he says on stage, "the political mainstream."

To his supporters, it is his biggest strength. To his detractors, it is his biggest weakness. There will be no compromise, no pandering. He is, in many ways, the first social media leader – a symptom of the age of social media bubbles, where people get to hold their beliefs close, where they are calcified and never questioned. To question orthodoxy is to be labelled a Tory or a "centrist dad", someone stuffy and out of touch. But to rule, to get things done, so the thinking goes, compromise is all. Politics, the saying goes, is the art of the possible.

What are your thoughts about the "centrist dad" tag?

"I'm a centrist dad," he says. "Radicalised!"

Have you made any compromises since becoming leader?

"Um…" he says. "We have had some problems, as everybody well knows, and I have not always had my own way. On the Syria vote, for instance, I didn't have my own way. But I was not prepared to countenance the bombing of Syria, so I did what I did."

Or, put another way: no, he has not made any compromises.

It's also for this reason, I'm told by a Labour insider, he has not had a single conversation with Tony Blair since becoming leader.

Is it true? Have you not met Blair?

"Nope."

Is there a reason for that? After all, he is a Labour leader who won three general elections.

"Nope. I've had no conversations with him at all."

If he reached out, would you speak to him?

"I'd talk to anybody. I'm very polite."

Right. But would it not make sense to get the advice of someone who has won elections?

"I've made it clear my views on austerity and I've made it very clear my views on the Iraq War. And I promised that I would, and I did, give the apology on the anniversary of Iraq, and I stand by that, because I think it was a catastrophic mistake."

Can you ever forgive Blair for Iraq?

"It's not a question of forgiving. It's a question of understanding the enormity of that decision. And I look back at the points that we made in the run-up to the war and the words that I used in a big rally in 2003, in which I said, 'This war will unleash terror.' And look what's happened."

Once again, the talk of the conference had been anti-Semitism in the Labour Party. Yet, despite specifically mentioning the horrific racist abuse suffered by Diane Abbott, and decrying "any abuse of anybody", he does not mention anti-Semitism by name in his speech.

Wouldn't it have made sense to?

"It was right to recognise the abuse a black woman has faced," he says. "And it's abominable what Diane and other black women have been through. We agreed with a huge majority the new rule on racism – which includes anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and other forms of racism. I have made my position on anti-Semitism abundantly clear on many occasions and I felt that the speech was set in the context of our society and how we oppose racists. I was at

He doesn't have all the answers… but he doesn't always have the questions either

a public meeting on hate crime two weeks ago in Islington, at the mosque in Finsbury Park. Three hundred people came. Absolutely horrendous, harrowing stories of individual abuse. And we know the abuse that Jewish people go through in public. We know the abuse that Islamic women go through in public. We know the abuse that young women go through in public. It's all wrong. And I made that very clear."

He did, he says, catch May's speech – but only in brief. He was cycling through Norfolk at the time, "and Laura picked bits and pieces on her phone and told me about it".

Did you feel sorry for her?

"Yes, because it is a big gig, as you might imagine. But you actually begin to feel sorry for those around her. And what you realise is that it's a huge amount of effort put in by your team."

Back in Brighton, Corbyn ends his speech by saying, "Many hadn't voted before, or not for years past… We offered an antidote to apathy and despair." He says, "We will not let you down" and that Labour "can and will deliver a Britain for the many and not just the few".

The auditorium rises to its feet for a standing ovation. Corbyn, a fringe protestor who has suddenly found half the country protesting with him, beams and waves. The crowd, once again, begins to sing, "Ooohhh, Jeremy Corbyn…"

Before I leave, we talk about what a first day of Corbyn at Number Ten would look like.

"Well, there's a huge in-tray…"

The first thing would be the housing crisis. Then refugees ("We cannot go on ignoring the numbers of people that are forced to become refugees of war, because of environmental and human rights issues). Then, of course, "precious things", like saving the NHS.

Despite his stance on nuclear disarmament, he would, he says, allow himself to be briefed on the nuclear codes ("Of course I'd be briefed on them"). He'd also speak to Putin. "I am strongly critical of Putin's government on human rights issues. Does that mean we don't have a relationship with Putin? No, it means the opposite." And he would, he says, meet with Trump. "I look forward to meeting him and I hope we can work together to deal with the crucial issues faced in the world, on environment and climate change, on refugees, and on a longer trajectory for peace. It depends how the conversation went. And I would then talk about human rights and ask him specifically about some of his views, including the wall in Mexico – which Congress looks like it doesn't want to fund for him anyway, so it might not happen."

We talk a little about sections of wall Trump has built for "testing".

"I think it's for the public to go down there and choose which type of wall they want. Or you could tick the box saying, 'None of the above.' Have you seen it? Quite bizarre, isn't it?"

The biggest danger, he says, "is the inability of world leaders to speak to one another".

Before I go, he shares a story.

The previous Saturday, he says, he and McDonnell were at a campaign event in Great Yarmouth. Afterwards, they went for a walk on the beach. Corbyn spotted an otter in the sea and scaled up a huge rock, one that was more than twice his height, to get the best picture. At this point his press secretary covered her face in shock. "Jeremy! We'll have to get you insured!"

Nevertheless, Corbyn shows me the pictures he took on his phone. "It's amazing quality, isn't it?"

McDonnell, meanwhile, stayed on the beach, and beckoned him down. GQ

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Photography assistants **Alex Forsey; James Rawlings**
Style assistant **Georgia Medley**
Grooming **Davide Barbieri at Caren Agency using Oribe and Clarins Men**
Shot at the office of Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP, leader of the opposition, House of Commons, Westminster

'Had the election been slightly longer, we'd have got a majority'

ANGEL OF THE EAST

High-flying Chinese catwalk star Sui He gets set to join modelling's most heavenly host

STORY BY **Eleanor Halls**

Victoria's Secret model Sui He, originally from Wenzhou, China, is a woman of firsts.

In 2011, five years after winning a national modelling competition with no prior training, the 28-year-old, who has more than a million Instagram followers, made her breakthrough by becoming the first East Asian woman to open a Ralph Lauren show as well as the second Asian model (OK, she's allowed to come second once, right?) to ever walk the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show. Then, in 2013, He, who has covered *Vogue* China and *Vogue* Thailand, became the first Chinese face of skincare brand Shiseido.

And this November, He made history again by walking in the first Victoria Secret Fashion Show hosted in her native China, this year designed by Balmain (another first).

Her next accolade? It's only a matter of time before He earns her "wings" and becomes the first full-fledged Asian Victoria's Secret Angel. And with her track record, it's not like it would be a first. GQ

Photograph **Getty Images**

It's only a matter of time before Sui He becomes the first Asian Victoria's Secret Angel

Intimate affair: Victoria's Secret models Sui He and Alessandra Ambrosio attend the opening of the lingerie brand's new Chengdu store in China, 10 March

The concerts for the 1984 Victory tour began with The Jacksons rising through the stage. The 55 nights were seen by an estimated two million fans and became one of the highest-grossing tours of all time

INSIDE THE JACKSON MACHINE

When The Jacksons graduated from talent shows to become the hottest act on Motown's star-stocked books, it began a journey that changed pop music forever. Now, with an exclusive look at a new volume of memories and interviews from the surviving brothers, GQ reveals the untold story of Jermaine, Jackie, Tito, Marlon and Michael

STORY BY **Charlie Burton**

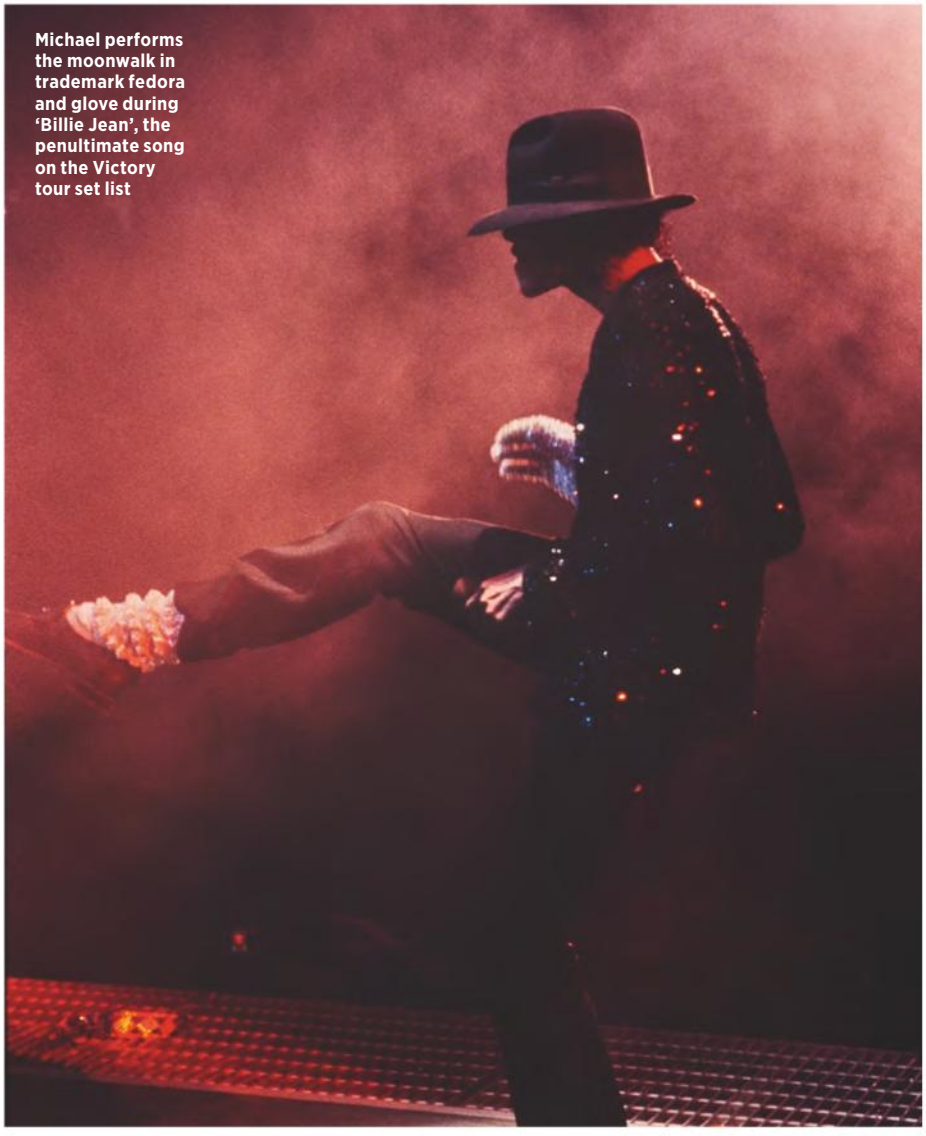
Photographs Getty Images; Dan Gottesman/2017 Jacksons Entertainment

'People always wanted to look at pictures of us,' says Jackie (bottom right) of the group's reluctance to be photographed. 'But when you're an entertainer or a celebrity you have to be'

One day in 1965, a model called Evelyn Leahy was organising a children's fashion show in Illinois' Forest Glen Park. She needed a band and recalled a group she had recently seen play at a shopping mall in Gary, Indiana. She phoned their mother, Katherine, a friend, and enlisted them to perform. Problem was, they didn't yet have a name to put on the flyers. Katherine came up with one: The Jackson Brothers Five. Too long, responded Leahy. Her suggestion? The Jackson Five.

Over the coming decade, with the help of their fearsome father, Joe, The Jackson 5, as they became known – Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon and Michael – would release a string of hits including "ABC", "The Love You Save" and "I'll Be There" through Motown Records. Jackie was the eldest, but they had the good sense to put Michael, who was just five when he joined, up front on lead vocals. He was not only a talented singer, but also a precocious technician. It was Michael who could dance like James Brown, Michael who could learn a reworked melody on the spot. "Michael was young but he was professional," recalls Clifton Davis, who wrote "Never Can Say Goodbye". "His ear and pitch were amazing. He could take things and make them his own."

Inevitably, Michael struck out solo, one of the first artists from a Motown group to do so. His first independent track, "Got To Be There", came out in 1971, but it wasn't until the 1979 album *Off The Wall* that he really hit his stride. His fame from that point so eclipsed that of the band, which had transferred to Epic Records and changed their name to The Jacksons, that it's easy to forget they continued recording music. But record they did, including hits such as "Can You Feel It" from their 1980 album, *Triumph*. In 1984, after the release of *Victory*, the brothers would go on tour with Michael for one last time. Now, on the 50th anniversary of the band's debut single, "Big Boy", The Jacksons are releasing their first official book, *The Jacksons: Legacy*. Featuring new interviews and unseen photographs, it tells the story of pop's royal family in their own words…



Michael performs the moonwalk in trademark fedora and glove during 'Billie Jean', the penultimate song on the Victory tour set list

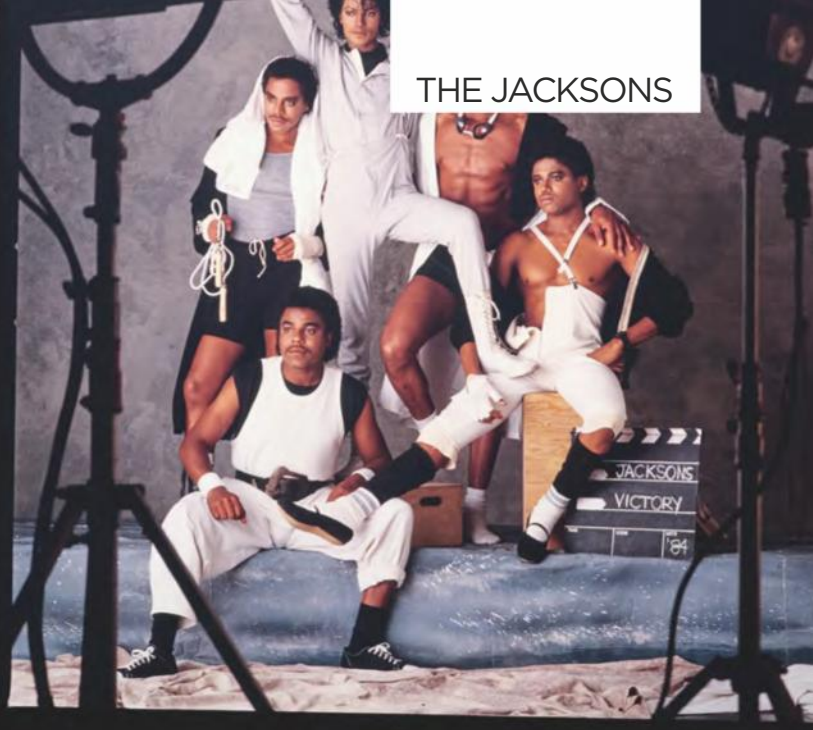
Jackie on starting the band

Tito, Jermaine and I started the group. We were just fooling around on guitar and bass and then one day Michael joined us, playing bongos on a Quaker oatmeal box. He played them so well we thought he should be part of the group. As soon as we did that, he started dancing up in front, doing his James Brown thing. Michael always watched James Brown on television, and Jackie Wilson, too – also The Temptations and then The Four Tops. He would copy what they were doing. That's when we realised how much showmanship he had, and we thought maybe he should be singing lead.

Gladys Knight on seeing an early Jacksons show in 1967

I was sitting in my dressing room on the second floor [of the Regal Theater in Chicago] when I heard these little voices. I could look out from the banister to the stage, so I got up from my make-up chair and saw these little kids. I couldn't see that well because the curtains were in the way, but I could see how they moved. I thought to myself, "Oh, my god. Who is that?" As young as I was, I knew talent when I saw it. Even with their little children voices I heard their potential and knew what these guys could achieve. I went back to my dressing room and when The Pips came upstairs I asked, "Who was that singing a few minutes ago?" They told me it was "Joe's boys". »

Photographs **Dan Gottesman/2017 Jacksons Entertainment**



The brothers sit for a photo session to promote the Victory tour

Jackie and Marlon on growing up in Gary, Indiana

Jackie: *Gary wasn't the safest place to live. There were gangs and Dad had six boys. He wanted to make sure we didn't get into drugs, so he kept us busy.*

Marlon: *He would have us move bricks from one side of the back yard to the other. We'd stack them up on one side of the yard and two days later he'd have us move them back. They weren't little bricks, and there were a lot of them.* »

The extended Jackson family gather to show off the brothers' new motorbikes in the back yard of the Encino home they bought once famous. Parents Joe and Katherine are fourth and fifth from the left. '[They] made us wear helmets when we were riding,' recalls Jackie (far left)

Photograph **Getty Images**

The brothers recorded the first Jackson Five single, 'Big Boy', for Steeltown Records in Gary, Indiana, in 1968. It became a local hit and they were signed by Motown the next year

Jackie on playing at Diana Ross' birthday party after signing to Motown

We were kids from Gary, Indiana, who had never been in a big mansion. I noticed Smokey Robinson and Stevie Wonder. We had to sing their songs in front of them. My brothers were running around, having fun. They forgot that we had a show to do and that it was make it or break it for us.

Marlon on leaving Motown for Epic Records in 1976

I was too young to realise it was a big deal to leave Motown. We came to Motown with the name Jackson 5 and I thought we should walk away with it. But they kept it and that's why we changed it to The Jacksons. Emotionally, it was tough to leave. I really appreciated Motown. Berry [Gordy, the founder] gave us our start.

Jackie on writing 1980's 'Can You Feel It'

I had been dating Kathy Avanzino [later Kathy Hilton, mother of Paris]. I was leaving her house on Mulholland Drive and the idea for the song came into my mind. I kept singing the melody, with the drums and music and everything. I had a Dictaphone in the car and put everything on that. I got to the house in Encino and went right to the piano. »

Photographs **Dan Gottesman/2017 Jacksons Entertainment**

'Madonna's manager, Freddy DeMann, brought her to see us in New York,' says Marlon. 'He told us, this is my next new artist.' Michael and Madonna later tried to collaborate on his 1992 single 'In The Closet'

Michael with Andy Warhol. The artist's portrait of him appeared on the cover of Time magazine on 19 March 1984

Michael cuts loose during 1984's Victory tour. Because of his skyrocketing solo success, it was his last as The Jacksons' lead singer

An outtake from the photo session that produced the cover for the group's Motown debut: Diana Ross Presents The Jackson 5

Jackie on Michael

There's never a day that goes by that I don't think about my brother, because he's all around us. The other day, when I was driving down the Strip, I was at a stoplight on Las Vegas Boulevard and I turned to the right and there was this big poster of him looking at me. I said, "Hey, Mike, what's going on?" Things like that happen all the time. When I walk in a restaurant or a store, all of a sudden one of his songs will play, so he's around us 24/7 and we miss him dearly. He is always with us in spirit and it will always be that way. We just have to carry on his message, what he was about.

The opening to 'Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'', the first song on the Victory tour set list. It was around this time that ticketing controversies and internal rivalries saw the brothers' relationship with Michael begin to deteriorate

Tito on watching Michael moonwalking during 'Billie Jean'

Michael doing the moonwalk was a surprise to everyone. Michael was hot at that time, so everybody was gathered backstage around the monitors. We had seen the moonwalk many times, because we'd been around Michael his whole life. We were all able to do the moonwalk, too, but we never presented it or thought about putting it in the show like that. He used it brilliantly and it became a signature move for him.

Jackie on collaborating with Mick Jagger for Victory's 'State Of Shock'

We weren't in the studio at the time when they did that, just Michael. But the finished product sounded incredible and it captured Mick really well. Michael told me that when he was in the studio Mick was worried that he wasn't going to deliver like Michael wanted him to. Michael had to reassure him, "No, man, you're doing a great job. Keep doing what you're doing." Because Mick wanted to impress all of us.

Tito on the tour that never happened

Although Michael was doing The O2 Arena [scheduled to run from July 2009 to March 2010], we had already been discussing the possibility of going out again with him. So that was the plan, for us to join him later at The O2 Arena, maybe do five songs with him, and then go on tour from there. But as we know, that never came to light. **GQ**

The Jacksons: Legacy by The Jacksons and Fred Bronson (Thames & Hudson, £25) is out now.

Photographs **Dan Gottesman/2017 Jacksons Entertainment**

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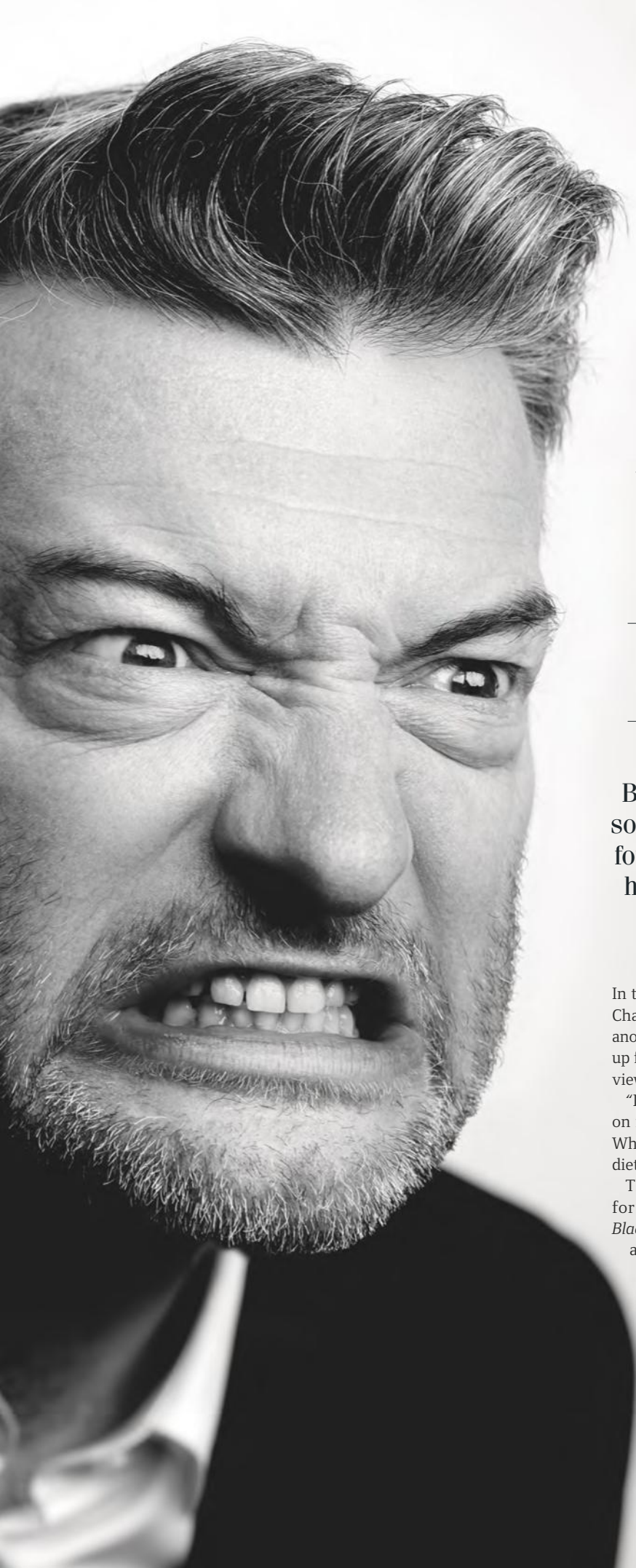
‘Social media is like a weird dreamscape. The world in there doesn’t feel real’



The ALASTAIR CAMPBELL interview Charlie Brooker

Across three incredible series, Black Mirror's paranoiac-in-chief reflected society's real living nightmares. Ahead of his fourth anthology of dark satirical dystopias, he reveals what keeps him awake at night

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **Steve Schofield**

In the time between meeting and sitting down to start our interview, Charlie Brooker uses the word "weird" about ten times, "weirdly" another half dozen or so and "oddly" a few times too. The clothes lined up for the photoshoot are "weird". The cameras set up to film our interview are "weird". The chairs on which we sit are "weird".

"I've never made eye contact with anyone for this long," he tells me on realising how close together our chairs are. "I'm weird like that." When someone asks if we want breakfast, he fills me in on his "weird" diet – he only eats between noon and 8pm.

The days leading up to our interview have been quite weird for me too. To the horror of my daughter, who loves Brooker's *Black Mirror*, the show had passed me by. I still know him more as a *Guardian* columnist, a fellow contributor to the now defunct *10 O'Clock Live*, the presenter of an annual review of the year and the husband of Konnie Huq. So in preparation I feel duty-bound to watch as many *Black Mirror* episodes as I can, from the first, "The National Anthem", in which a prime minister is forced to have sex with a pig, to the latest, soon-to-be-released-on-Netflix "USS Callister", part of series four, in which Jesse Plemons plays the malevolent captain of a spaceship and where, as always with *Black Mirror*, nothing is quite as it seems. It is wacky, clever, strangely compelling and *weird*. Much like the man himself. »

AC: So I have been gorging...
CB: That is the phrase.
AC: Including "USS Callister".
CB: Yet to be seen by the public.
AC: So where did the idea first come from to do this episode?
CB: With each series, in a somewhat pretentious way, we imagine we are curating a little film festival. Each one has to be different and fairly idiosyncratic. It's best to imagine we are doing different genre pieces. We are a sort of sci-fi genre, but we have never done space exploration, so how would we do a space epic? That is what we thought.
AC: The captain of the ship is a tyrant and we later find out why. Is the power of technology to corrupt a theme of the show?
CB: It becomes a story about somebody wielding immense power and quite often in our stories what we do is we explore what happens when a normal, flawed human being is given immense power by technology. The programme is clearly inspired by shows such as *The Twilight Zone* or *Tales Of The Unexpected*, but where they used the supernatural we use technology. And it's almost like someone has discovered a superpower in which technology is imposing power on everyone else, creating a warped but logical system.
AC: On the tyrant theme, you look at Putin interfering in the US elections and the way the Americans seem not to care. What thought does that put in your head?
CB: I have often felt the worlds of social media and the internet are like a weird dreamscape. Even physically, when you are looking at your phone, you are out of it. It's like falling asleep and [*snapping*] out of it. The world in there doesn't feel entirely real. When you meet people you've interacted with on social media, they are not like they are on social media. Look at the American election or the rhetoric online, it is frightening and yet it doesn't feel like it is coming from an authentic place. It feels like it is orchestrated by bot armies seeding hashtags, so it is both sinister and weirdly reassuring. I think, "Is that something we are going to snap out of?"
AC: What if it's not? What a lot of this is about is we don't know what is happening to our thoughts. We don't know the impact of all this.
CB: That is something I worry about.
AC: You're scared of the ramifications?
CB: I'm scared about everything. I'm an anxious worrier. I worry about the downside of everything.
AC: So if you see Trump and Kim Jong-un, you think there'll be a nuclear war?
CB: Weirdly, I don't.
AC: You look at climate change and think the planet will be destroyed?
CB: Weirdly, oddly, things like that, as soon as a lot of people are worried about it, I ease off a bit.
AC: Because you think we'll work it out?
CB: I at least hope we will try. With Trump and Kim Jong-un, it would be bloody annoying for the world to destroy itself over that when we can see it coming. I worry more about an accidental nuclear exchange coming because 99 red balloons

Frontier psychiatrist: In new Black Mirror episode 'USS Callister', Brooker reimagines TV space opera

'In the Eighties, at any given time I expected to die within three years'

fly by. That would be more unexpected. I can quickly go to a place where I worry about society spiralling out of control.
AC: Do you think technological advance is helping society to spiral out of control?
CB: It feels more out of control than it was, yes, but I think what has happened is we have developed a new superpower, an ability, a new form of communication, which we as a species are not yet up to speed with.
AC: Where does all this fear come from? Were you a fearful, anxious child?
CB: Yes. A lot of it was to do with something now in vogue again: nuclear paranoia. I was born in 1971 and there was a point when I realised nuclear weapons were a real thing and terrifying. My grandparents on my mother's side were both CND supporters, my grandmother was at Greenham Common, and they had all these magazines called *Sanity*. I remember reading an account of Nagasaki, about the body of a pregnant woman found in a skip full of irradiated water, and I was like, "Jesus Christ!" I was watching things like *Threads*, on in 1984, and a QED documentary on what would happen if a nuclear bomb was detonated over St Paul's Cathedral. This stuff really went in. It is still there. I could not understand why everyone wasn't out in the streets panicking and screaming all the time. I couldn't understand why people were so calm and how they could care about biscuits and shoes and kitchens when this was hanging over us, it seemed demented. For a lot of people of my generation that was a profound fear. I was watching things like *Threads* at too young an age to deal with that.
AC: Your children are growing up not just with nukes, but climate change, terrorism and existential threats. Are you more scared?
CB: There is a weird sort of slightly optimistic streak. Part of it is to do with being an adult. In the Eighties, I expected to die within three years, at any time. There were two tribes and it felt that was about to happen. So the mere fact I existed through a time when it looked like it was going to happen and it didn't...
AC: But it might one day.
CB: Exactly, that is the 3am thought.
AC: Do you sleep well?
CB: No.
AC: And do you dream a lot?
CB: No, I never dream. No, that's not true. I very rarely dream.
AC: I thought loads of your *Black Mirror* ideas must have come from dreams.
CB: I only recently learned how to go to sleep. I wear a headband thing with sleep phones and an eye mask and I listen to a podcast or *Desert Island Discs* or a stand-up comedy thing. It must be something I am interested in, not just the circuits of paranoid thoughts.
AC: How much are the 3am thoughts giving you ideas for the show?
CB: The ideas for the show come about either in conversation or sometimes when I go for a run.
AC: Are you actively looking for ideas when you run?
CB: Weirdly it is best if you're not. It's best when you're relaxed, in conversation, "That would be great if that happened..."
AC: Do you daydream?

CB: I am totally the daydreaming type. I was always interested in cartoons or computer games, which were an escape from the real world. I did have a fascination with things that were disconcerting, that left me with a horrible feeling.

AC: So you like fear?

CB: I found it weirdly comforting watching something with a bleak ending because I was mistrustful of happy endings.

AC: There was a period it looked like you were becoming purely a comedian, certainly a satirist. Now there is the odd laugh, but it is all pretty dark.

CB: Yes, but usually I am pissing myself.

AC: What do you make of Trump's use of technology and social media?

CB: As soon as Trump was running for the Republican candidacy I remember thinking he is going to win and he will become president. Then thinking, "That is a crazy thought. Don't think that. It's the kind of paranoid thing you think." But I thought people would vote for him because he is a vandal and enough people want to throw a brick through a window, just because. So it felt to me there was a grim inevitability to all the stages. It started with everyone on the news saying, "Ha, he's such a clown," and then they had to pull a serious face. There is an odd thing – a few years ago if you told me the president of the US would be on Twitter threatening nuclear war with North Korea, I would have shat myself. But he is like a yapping dog. Weirdly, his words don't carry as much weight because he devalues himself; you know that it is noise and bluster. They will come out and say, "He didn't mean that." There's an element of it that is more ridiculous than sinister.

AC: But he is the president.

CB: That is the cognitive dissonance I keep having. It doesn't help that on social media when I see "BBC breaking news: North Korea fires missile over Japan", and I get a cold, lurching feeling, then the tweet hanging off that is an animated gif of SpongeBob SquarePants going, *"Oooooh, noooo."* That is not what I foresaw when I pictured the apocalypse as a kid. I didn't foresee animated reaction gifs.

AC: Yet you did "The Waldo Moment" [the *Black Mirror* episode in which a cartoon character becomes a politician].

CB: People often say it predicted Trump. That was me struggling with a sense that things were not working. I was doing *10 O'Clock Live* and people would say, "You should be politicians" and I would think comedians are the worst people to be politicians. What am I doing if I do one of my *Weekly Wipe* shows? I am a 360-degree piss taker.

AC: But Trump is a performer.

CB: He is a demolition derby car, a disruptor, and you can see the appeal. It's the same thing that makes people vote for someone dressed as a banana.

AC: Or the monkey mayor in Hartlepool. So Waldo could have won.

CB: He comes second in the end. I thought winning was too far-fetched. It came about because, years ago, I did *Nathan Barley* with Chris Morris and we had this idea: what if someone came up with an animated

Mirrored reality: In 'The Waldo Moment', an animated politician almost wins a by-election

'When I pictured the apocalypse, I didn't foresee the animated tweets'

MP and it was like Homer Simpson? You know he is not real and it doesn't matter because weirdly that inoculates him against accusations of being inauthentic.

AC: So Jacob Rees-Mogg, Boris Johnson and Jeremy Corbyn, this thing they share, authenticity, which doesn't have to be real.

CB: It has to feel real. During the election, it was strange when Paul Nuttall started dressing like Nigel Farage and he looked…

AC: Weird.

CB: Like a bad regeneration of Doctor Who. At least when they regenerate Doctor Who they give him a whole new outfit. David Tennant doesn't just appear in Christopher Ecclestone's jacket. A strong flavour feels authentic. That is partly a reaction to everyone trying to be Blair, like Cameron and Clegg did, everyone feeling like a sort of bland neighbour in an episode of *Holby City*.

AC: That's no way to speak of my old boss.

CB: But everyone was trying to emulate that affable, nonthreatening feel.

AC: Where would you put your politics?

CB: More left-leaning than right. I am weirdly not as political as people think. I get wound up, but I am not hugely active. Like a lot of people, I am quite lazy or focused on working. I always vote Labour.

AC: On the Labour spectrum, where are you between Blair and Corbyn?

CB: I am probably in between. I have no place. I am not even on one side of that war. I am right in the middle.

AC: So do you feel politically homeless?

CB: I am less politically homeless than before the election, when I thought, "Where is Britain going?"

AC: You don't feel that now?

CB: I do, but weirdly not in the same way. It doesn't feel like it is becoming necessarily a right-wing dystopia. I don't know where it is heading. I was reassured that there was a big pushback against the tone of…

AC: Hard Brexit?

CB: People don't want that – that was clear.

AC: Do people want the Corbyn version?

CB: I don't really know. Before the Brexit vote, I thought Leave was going to win. There was a strong flavour from the Leave campaign. Agree or not, there was a clearly defined mood, two fingers up to everything. You could latch on to it.

AC: You voted Labour last time. What about next time?

CB: I have a very easy vote because the Labour candidate [Rupa Huq] is my sister-in-law. Also, if you look at the other side, who wants Boris Johnson in charge? Waldo was inspired by people like him and Farage who were becoming stock characters.

AC: As Rees-Mogg is.

CB: I don't think that will work, it is becoming boring. The next wave will be more approachable. Rees-Mogg is trying too hard.

AC: Do you share my hope that Brexit never happens?

CB: Yes, I do.

AC: Can't you do a *Black Mirror* Brexit dystopia? Get political!

CB: Sometimes we are overtly political, such as "The Waldo Moment" and "The National Anthem". Both were sympathetic to politicians, which is the opposite of anything else I do, firing a shit-gun over everything.

AC: There is a great moment when the ››

Photographs **Channel 4**

» comedian behind Waldo has sex with a Labour candidate and then destroys her and she screams at him, "At least I am for something. What are you for?" Was that you having a dialogue with yourself?

CB: That is me having a bit of a go, a snark for the sake of it, attacking the cynicism and attacking the anti-political, let's-destroy-everything desire.

AC: Has having a politician in the family changed your views?

CB: I hadn't thought of that, but I see how unbelievably hard they work. When Rupa says, "If there's anything I can do", she means it and spends loads of time helping people.

AC: I agree the portrayal of the PM and his wife was very sympathetic in "The National Anthem".

CB: Partly it is a contrarian thing. Usually in dramas politicians are scheming bastards. It is a cliché. "The National Anthem" came from two places. I was slightly fascinated by *I'm A Celebrity*. Brian Paddick ran for mayor of London, didn't win and by the end of the year he was in the jungle drinking a pint of liquidised kangaroo penis next to Timmy Mallett. Or was it crocodile? [It was camel.] Downing a pint against the clock to win some stars from Ant and Dec. That is an insane trajectory in one year.

AC: Was Ed Balls on *Strictly Come Dancing* in the same category?

CB: Less. The second thing was George Galloway on *Big Brother*. I was writing a show about a zombie attack on the show house [*Dead Set*], so I went down there. It was like peering into a zoo. I became fascinated by Galloway when he licked milk out of a bowl and everyone said, "He's finished." About a year later, I was in a cab and it was the George Galloway phone-in show on Talk Sport and he was using "Top Cat" as an ironic jingle. It is a weird thing where you can go on TV and shit into a bowl and nobody will judge you.

AC: I have turned down all of those programmes and I trust you will too.

CB: You're right to do so, but it is interesting that Ed Balls goes on *Strictly* and it becomes a triumph because he is a human being, doesn't take himself too seriously and tries his all. Good luck to him. He is the guy on the dance floor at the wedding who doesn't care that he looks like a dick. He is just enjoying it. It came from that. And also the pig episode – that incident when Gordon Brown was caught calling Gillian Duffy a bigot and there was a day when it felt like nobody was in charge and like the news was spiralling back on itself. The point in the radio studio when he did that [*head in hands*] and I felt human embarrassment.

AC: He'd exposed a thought that if he had known the mic was there, he would have held in. Some of your stuff feels like that. People are not sure who knows what they're thinking. We're losing control of our own thought processes.

CB: That happens a lot within the show. A lot of the stories hinge on what is authentic and real and what is an insecurity.

AC: In "The National Anthem" when the PM has sex with a pig, the public react like it's a comedy show or a football match. They cheer as he faces the pig, then, as it goes on, they realise it is horrible and they are horrible for having enjoyed it.

CB: If that was happening, people would tune in. Then the grim reality would set in; suddenly it is not fun at all. We relish seeing people destroyed, politicians and celebrities. There's a real relish and delight in seeing them fail.

AC: Even though it might damage us.

CB: We did an *Election Wipe* special and I looked at a lot of political interviews through the ages. As interviewers became more aggressive and Paxmanesque, it became a strategic game where politicians can't say anything. Politicians and interviewers are locked in a loveless marriage. It's horrible and the public get alienated, but it is also our fault because it is delightful to watch Michael Howard being asked the same question again and again and he can't answer it. His discomfort is delicious. But you end up with a scenario where nobody can talk straight.

'How can people care about shoes with nuclear war hanging over us?'

AC: You know so much about technology.

CB: I am quite geeky. I used to be a video games journalist and now people alert me to stuff all the time. But I try not to actively research things, weirdly, because it might get in the way of a story idea.

AC: Have you ever had an idea but thought, "That is too ridiculous"?

CB: Yes, but then we went ahead and did it. People being picked off by drone bees [in "Hated In The Nation"] and I said, "This is too silly." Then it turns out drone bees are real, so what do I know?

AC: Will you do this forever?

CB: Till it gets boring. I'd hope it will get boring for everyone at the same time. The show has to refresh itself every episode so you don't get jaded.

AC: The show is going big in the US.

CB: You know you're breaking through when it becomes a phrase. When Trump was elected there were people with banners saying, "This episode of *Black Mirror* sucks." At that point you go, "OK, we stand for something in people's heads."

AC: What is Netflix doing for the industry?

CB: You're not beholden. They are giving a lot of creative freedom. Writers have a lot of power. There is more chance of people taking risks because things need to stand out.

AC: What are you watching now?

CB: I just watched *Narcos*. And *Doctor Foster* – I couldn't work out if I loved it or hated it. It may as well take place on the moon. We liked *Big Little Lies*. Our tastes have changed. I used to like nihilistic horror films. Now, I'm happy to watch *Bake Off*.

AC: Where does your creativity come from?

CB: I'm predisposed to imagine the worst case scenario in any situation, which is really useful. "What if this was invented?" and I go, "Yeah, but this would happen." If there's a kettle, I worry that I'll knock it over and scald someone. At the airport, I look at the other passengers and I'm like...

AC: Who's got the bomb?

CB: No. "Who's going to freak out and open the exit door?" The bomb is too obvious.

AC: What are you for?

CB: Doing *Black Mirror*, I am a campfire storyteller finding something oddly reassuring about things that are not reassuring. There's something to be said for satire and comedy with the state of the world. Pointing out the madness of things is reassuring to people because other people feel the same. In the Eighties, *Spitting Image* would be chilling and frightening and you would think, "Thank fuck someone else feels this is a madhouse." That helps your general level of anxiety and sanity. It's good to know other people are scared as well.

AC: So you are here to share fear.

CB: To reassure others by worrying out loud. **GQ**

Black Mirror returns to Netflix in December.

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Trump's human wall

It's always hot in the desert between the US and Mexico, and with the man in the White House still stoking fear and anger, tensions on both sides of the line are at flashpoint. But as faith in his border barricade fades, is this heavily armed squad of dropouts and malcontents the only line of defence against the 'drug mules and murderers' even the president can't keep out?

STORY BY **Alex Hannaford**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **James Breeden**

Patriot games: Formed by Tim 'Nailer' Foley (at front, with pit bull Sergeant Rocko) to hunt illegal Mexican migrants, Arizona Border Recon is an unsanctioned militia

It's silent in the desert. The shrill chirp of cicadas, so relentless during the day, has vanished, as has the baying of coyotes that began at dusk. There are no nearby city lights to pollute the star show above my tent and as the clock ticks towards midnight the temperature plunges rapidly from the 40C it was earlier in the day.

It's desolate, but uniquely beautiful. I'm surrounded by desert trees and cacti, including mesquite, cat's claw and prickly pear, beyond which are 200 million-year-old volcanic mountains, hills and valleys with names such as Sand Wash, East Wind and Dancing Rabbit. Everything is peaceful. Until the gunfire begins. Then, the *pop pop pop*, which echoes around the canyon, sounds just feet away and it's impossible to sleep.

When I climb out of my tent at 7am, ten or so men dressed in combat gear, sidearms holstered on their hips, are already milling around two fold-out tables underneath a large white awning. One brews a pot of coffee; another sorts through his equipment and checks his radio; another heats up the previous day's leftovers to sandwich between tortillas for breakfast.

A large, panting pit bull emerges from behind a truck, followed by a slim, smallish man sporting a buzzcut under a camo baseball cap. His T-shirt reads "Arizona Border Recon". He could pass as a grizzled Paul Newman – excepting the week's worth of facial hair, sweat, desert dirt and missing front tooth. This is Tim Foley, but he prefers "Nailer", and for seven years now this 58-year-old has been living down here in southern Arizona, leading armed patrols of the Mexican border with his civilian army, searching for undocumented migrants.

To you and me, Arizona Border Recon – AZBR for short – is a militia: a platoon of men who shoulder AR-15 assault-style rifles and don military fatigues, but who are unaccountable to any law enforcement division or military hierarchy. Taking the law into their own hands, they police the US border with Mexico, looking for "illegals", as Nailer calls them, detaining them until Border Patrol arrives. Nailer objects to the term militia. "It's been demonised," he says. "Besides, militias have generals and colonels and captains, and the only one in my organisation with a rank is my dog, Sergeant Rocko."

Since 2012, though, AZBR has been designated a "nativist extremist" group by US civil rights charity Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), the term it gives "organisations that go beyond mere advocacy to personally confront suspected undocumented border crossers".

Nailer isn't bothered about being called an extremist. "We are truly honoured," he wrote on Facebook in response to the SPLC's designation, "as getting off a couch is quite extreme these days. It means we are doing something right."

He rolls out a topographic map of the region and runs a grubby finger over the area where we're camping. It reinforces just how remote this place is, a location I've been told to keep secret, two hours southwest of Tucson, in the middle of Arizona's 117,464-acre Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. "Here's Sasabe, Arizona in the US," Nailer says, pointing to a tiny town some miles to the west of us, right on the border. "And here's the Mexican Sasabe." It's less than a mile-and-a-half from its US namesake, which Nailer says illustrates how easy it can be to bring drugs across. But that's not all. "See this," he says, showing the vast expanse of land in Mexico to the south which looks remote and devoid of human habitation. "Abandoned town, abandoned town, airstrip, airstrip." All of these, he says, are potential staging points for the narcos.

'The rainbow and unicorn crowd want you to think migrants are just looking for work'

Nailer's voice crackles with years of smoking. Every so often he pauses to cough up something deep within his lungs, which he then spits into the dirt. "You got two different factions of the same cartel fighting for control here. This is all Sinaloa," he says. Until his arrest and extradition to the United States earlier this year, Joaquín Guzmán, better known as "El Chapo", controlled the Sinaloa drug cartel and was considered the most powerful narco trafficker in the world. "So now that he's never going to be seen again, his sons are trying to take over," Nailer explains. "But his number two, El Mayo, is also trying to take control, so there are factions loyal to each, and right now in this area they're fighting it out for the rights to these trails. For three days in a row you could hear gun battles."

That, presumably, is the provenance of the gunfire I heard last night too.

Nailer's is a familiar face round here – and not just because of the regularity with which he carries out border patrols in the area. In 2015, he was the subject of an award-winning documentary, *Cartel Land*, co-produced by *The Hurt Locker*'s Kathryn Bigelow and directed by Matthew Heineman. The film, which tells a dual narrative of Arizona Border Recon and the Autodefensas – Mexican vigilantes fighting the cartels – won three Emmys and was nominated for an Oscar.

That's how I first came across AZBR and my meeting with the group began with an email. Back in May, I received a message containing "logistics for volunteers only", and a grid location I was told not to share with anyone "for operational security reasons". It contained coordinates, weather forecast and an assignment in military speak: "You will be rotating in and out of the FOB [forward operating base]," it read. "Teams will be assigned a trail to cover and will be set up there to minimise movement for optimum effect. You will be on the trail for 24 to 72 hours before you can resupply. So pack accordingly." It was signed "Nailer. Field operations director."

Nailer posts on Facebook several times a day, interacting with almost 3,000 followers on his personal page and almost 12,000 who follow his AZBR page. He largely reposts Fox News videos, posts photographs from his own operations in the desert and shows a penchant for stories about "illegal aliens" who have committed crimes in the US. He has an affinity for Breitbart, the far-right news and opinion site once run by Steve Bannon, formerly President Donald Trump's chief strategist.

He also posts video footage taken from clandestine cameras he positions around the desert near the border that shows what he says are teams of drug smugglers walking along the migrant trails. In one clip, a group of men wear military-style khaki clothing, their leader carries a radio and the rest follow behind lugging huge hessian backpacks, potentially full of narcotics.

A lot of Nailer's followers on social media discovered him the same way I did – from the documentary – but I'll soon find that's also how many of his volunteers ended up signing up to join his group. What I didn't realise at the time was just how important "the media" still is to Nailer's operation. The day I arrive, he tells me a team from RT (formerly Russia Today) has just left. Three staff from the *Arizona Republic* newspaper are still here, working on a print series in conjunction with *USA Today*.

The temperature begins to climb and Nailer sends the AZBR volunteers, split into two groups, out into the desert. They are assigned codenames – Overwatch and Romeo One. Sergeant Rocko lies down in the dirt under one of the fold-out tables, while Nailer pulls up a lawn chair next to mine.

Most of the objection to what Nailer does is because of the public sympathy that exists for those migrants who make the perilous journey across the Arizona desert for ››

‘Will Trump build the wall? Seeing is believing’

Armchair general: From a staging post somewhere in southern Arizona, AZBR commander Nailer Foley (above) assigns teams to patrol the desert trails

» economic reasons. Nailer insists, though, that 90 per cent of the traffic he sees is connected with dope smuggling. "It fluctuates based on who's in charge of the area. Some cartels don't want migrants on their shit because they make too much noise, draw too much attention to the dope trails."

He shows me a cardboard poster he's made to illustrate what he says is the result of all these criminals pouring into the United States. Under the heading "Stolen Lives 5" it has photographs of four people who were killed by undocumented migrants – three in car accidents, with one the result of a drunk driver.

"Ten people a day in the US die from illegal immigrants," he tells me, though fact-checking website PolitiFact says there is no solid data for homicides committed in the US by people in the country illegally. "And once we'd started posting these [stories] people got furious, asking, 'How come we don't see this?' The answer is because they don't want you to see it because they want you to believe the narrative that they're just doing jobs Americans won't do. And when Trump says we're getting murderers and rapists, we are! We have enough bad guys of our own, we don't need to import more. But the rainbow and unicorn crowd would love you to believe these are just poor migrants looking for day work."

On the campaign trail, Trump said "thousands of Americans have been killed by illegal immigrants", but PolitiFact also said research showed immigrants were no more likely than US-born individuals to commit crime and that studies also showed people migrated largely "to better their lives, provide for their families back in their home countries, and don't want to risk getting in trouble with the law".

Interestingly, although the number of people caught crossing into the US illegally over the past decade has actually fallen by 70 per cent, the amount of heroin and methamphetamine seized on the border has tripled in half that time. Here's the rub: a 2013 study by the Center For Investigative Reporting found that four out of five Border Patrol drug busts involved US citizens rather than foreign nationals or undocumented migrants. The crime organisations behind narco trafficking may be based in Mexico, but it's not Mexican or Central American couriers who are largely responsible for its transportation. It's Americans.

Nailer grew up in San Francisco, one of seven children. He started drinking when he was eight years old and began smoking pot and taking LSD when he was 12. He blames his father, who he says "had a fucked-up childhood himself". So he left home at 16 and ended up in Santa Cruz where he enrolled in high school. By the time he joined the military, he says he was already an alcoholic and addict. Years later he would lose his front tooth in a fall in the mountains, but the dentist told him it had been weakened from years of meth abuse.

He has two daughters in their twenties ("little California beach babies"), but he won't talk about them because of his involvement with AZBR. Nailer says his girls have his own father to thank for their upbringing. "Everything he did, I did the opposite."

After a stint in the 82nd Airborne Division under President Ronald Reagan, he worked in construction. When the housing crisis hit in 2006, Nailer lost both his job and his home. "I was running 150-man crews building high-rises and 75 per cent of them couldn't speak English. Each week we'd do a safety meeting and count how many guys we had and we were like, 'OK, what happened to them?' They got caught. I was under the impression that if you got caught you'd be deported, but three weeks later I'd see the same guys coming back on the job… They just went out and bought a new social security card and a new ID."

'The town hates us. You go into a bar and they have flyers with my picture on it'

Nailer says he went down to the border to see if it was "safe and secure" and has been there ever since. "People ask how I do this for free. I don't. I pay to do it. I cashed out my pensions early and have been living on them ever since – and they're running dry."

He says he put $170,000 of his own money into his operation, "including $20,000 worth of radios – the same ones Border Patrol uses, fully encrypted so the cartels can't monitor us – a solar generator which cost $1,000, solar panels at $200 a piece and cameras for the trails, which are running me $250 each".

Suddenly a voice comes over one of those radios: "Overwatch, Basecamp, do you copy? We're at the cattle guards."

"OK," Nailer says. "They'll be back shortly. I should make 'em sit up there and bake in the sun."

He lifts the radio to his mouth and smiles. "Overwatch, head toward the cattle guard and link up with Romeo One."

"Copy. There's a white vehicle heading our way."

It's so remote out here, I ask Nailer who he thinks it can be. "We'll find out in a second because it's heading right at 'em," he says. "Could be Border Patrol."

Nailer has a love-hate relationship with the government agency responsible for policing the border. It's his contempt for the "higher-ups" in Border Patrol and his perception that it's rife with mismanagement that he says is the reason AZBR exists in the first place. "It's a huge bureaucracy. There are 20,000 agents. Tucson station [responsible for patrolling the area we're in now] is tasked with securing 24.8 miles of the border, and they have 300 agents, but they can't do it. You know why? Because the station is two hours away. It's called Border Patrol, not 'Somewhat-Close-To-The-Border Patrol'."

For its part, US Customs And Border Protection, a division of which is Border Patrol, told *GQ* it doesn't "endorse or support private groups or organisations taking border security matters into their own hands as it could have disastrous personal and public safety consequences". A spokesperson said intercepting drugs and deterring and apprehending people illegally entering the US "requires trained law-enforcement personnel", adding that in the Tucson sector's harsh desert environment, its work can quickly turn into humanitarian operations. Its agents "are trained as first responders and many have additional medical training".

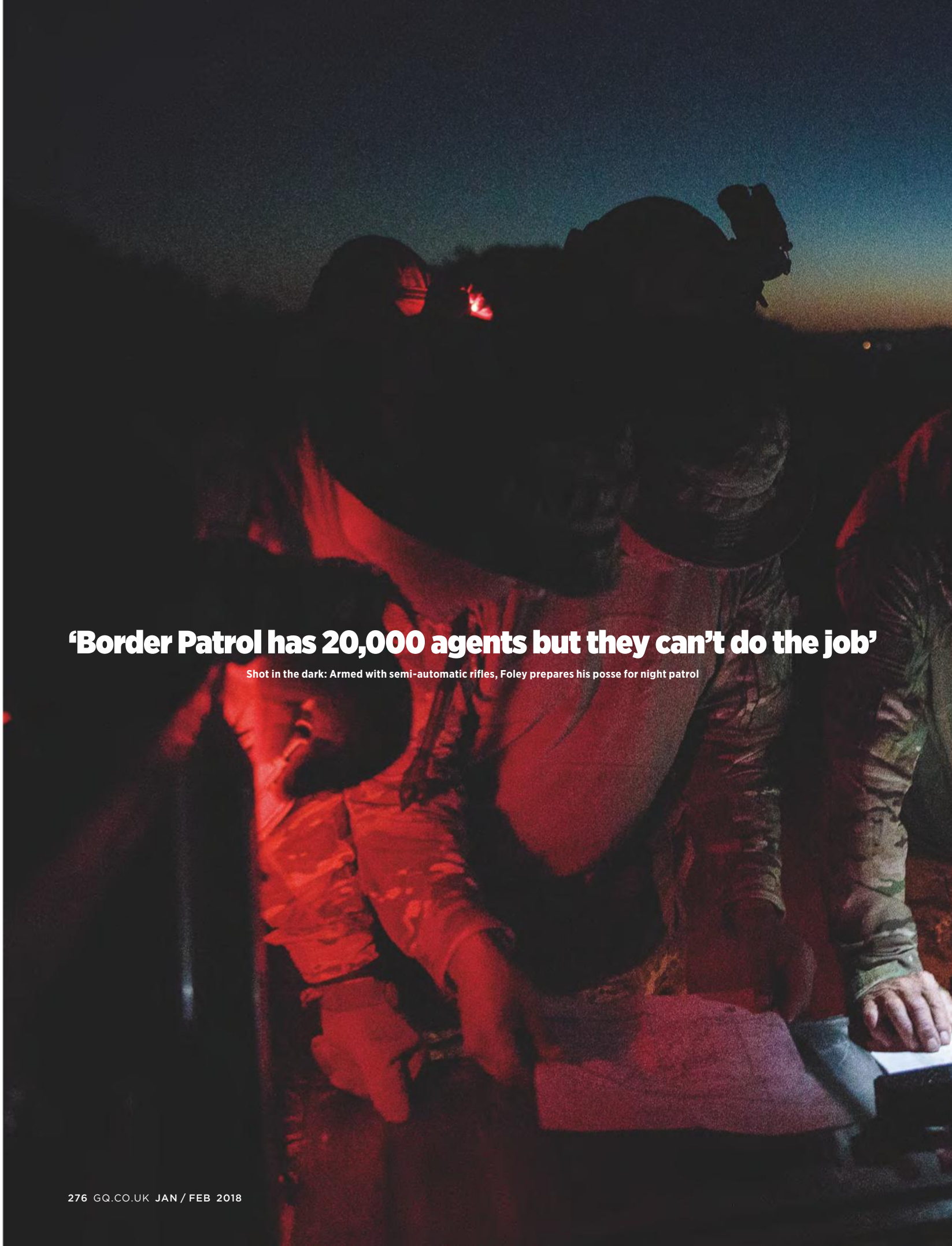
I ask Nailer what he thinks of Trump and his campaign promise to "build a big, beautiful wall" on the US's southern border with Mexico. Nailer says he liked the president initially. "Now he's just a politician. And I don't like any politician. Everybody says he's going to build the wall, but we've heard it for the past five administrations, so seeing is believing."

Five men emerge, one by one, from behind the mesquite and palo verde trees surrounding our tents – it's one of the AZBR units returning from patrol. Sweat and dust have combined in a paste on their foreheads; two of them slump down into lawn chairs and close their eyes while the others fill up their flasks with now-warm water from large orange containers.

Nailer tells me to hop in his truck so we can check some nearby trails and head down to scour the border. We pull up a few hundred yards from the camp and jump out. The particular trail we're on is what's known as a "wash" – a dry indentation in the sand, 20-feet wide, that snakes down from the mountains, carrying water with it during the rare times it rains here. "When it's really active this trail is worth about $1 million to $1.5m a week," Nailer says. »

Sign of the times: AZBR are unwelcome in the nearby town of Arivaca, Arizona; (below) the self-appointed border patrol monitor the trails for up to 72 hours at a time

‘In two-and-a-half hours I watched 36 drug mules go by’



‘Border Patrol has 20,000 agents but they can’t do the job’

Shot in the dark: Armed with semi-automatic rifles, Foley prepares his posse for night patrol

» His maths is pure conjecture, but he bases it on footage from scores of hidden cameras he has fixed to trees on many of the migrant trails around here, which he meticulously studies. In one particular video, he says a scout passed by, leading a group of drug mules northwards. "It took them about 25 minutes to get where they were going, because he was back in front of the camera in 40 minutes. Just as he reached the camera, there was the next group coming around the corner and this guy was shaking hands and joking and then he took off with the new group. Forty-five minutes later he was back and the exact same thing happened. So in less than two-and-a-half hours I watched 36 dope mules go by the camera. That's 1,500lb of dope at the lowball price of $800 a pound. One hundred thousand bucks went by in two-and-a-half hours. And that was just one day."

As we walk along the wash in the direction of the mountains, it becomes very clear very quickly, how inhospitable and dangerous the southern section of the Sonoran Desert can be. Within just a few steps your foot can plunge (as mine does) deep into what feels like dry quicksand; cactus thorns pierce your legs and arms as you brush past; and it doesn't take long for the sun to bake your neck and deplete your energy reserves. "That's the plant you want to stay away from," Nailer says, nodding in the direction of a clump of green, furry fingers waving from the ground a few feet away. "It's called jumping cactus and that is the worst. Spikes about yay long, all the way round. It's like a growing hand grenade."

I spot a pair of discarded shoes in the sand. On closer inspection they have soles made of carpet and a camouflage fabric upper. They're used by the cartels to mask their footprints so Border Patrol (and, presumably, Nailer's gang) can't track them. Under a nearby mesquite tree are two empty black water bottles, tied together with string, left behind by migrants as they lighten the load ahead of the trek north.

Nailer points to a footprint. "Probably a day old."

"We were here then, at the base," I say.

"They got past us," he replies, nodding, a smile forming on his weathered face. "They probably shot out that way."

Back in the truck, we bump along a potholed track that leads southwards into the hills. He stops on a bluff and we stand and look out over a huge expanse of granite cliffs, trees and desert wilderness. "Welcome to a vast expanse of nothing," Nailer says. He points to an area between us and our camp. "That's the route the traffickers take over the mountain to our left."

"Can the scouts see our camp?" I ask.

"Oh, yeah. But we do that on purpose. And then we move elsewhere, leaving the camp set up." He points to the peak of a mountain to the east. "There's a scout location on top right there. Another one up there."

Nailer runs his finger along a tree line below. "Down there is the Altar Valley, where Pablo Escobar brought through most of his shit." The Sinaloa cartel that operates here has provided weapons and money to the Oficina De Envigado, a crime syndicate in Medellín, Colombia, that took over some of Escobar's operations after his death in the early Nineties.

Last year Nailer moved to Arivaca, Arizona, a small community of around 1,000 people a few miles north of AZBR's temporary operating base. He says he's not popular in town. "Arivaca is a fucking den. They hate us. You go into the bar there and they have flyers with my picture on it."

A flyer in the window of Arivaca's only bar doesn't mention Nailer by name – it says militia groups operate in the area and that they're unwelcome in that particular establishment. Over the road is the Arivaca Humanitarian Aid office. Staffed by volunteers, its mission is "to provide crisis relief to prevent death and suffering in the borderlands".

'You see these 19-year-old girls volunteering and I think, man, what I could do to that'

From 2015 to 2016, the remains of 135 migrants were found in the Sonoran Desert. Humanitarians working in the area say these were men, women and children escaping drug and gang violence in their homelands – mostly Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Nailer says they're mostly working for the cartels.

It's no surprise Arivaca is hostile to AZBR. Although Nailer insists his group is no militia, in the summer of 2009, this tiny town saw two of its residents – a 29-year-old man and his nine-year-old daughter – murdered in their home by three members of a local militia, The Minutemen American Defense (MAD). All three militia members are now in prison, with one on death row.

Nailer's main problem with humanitarian organisations working here (who he pejoratively terms the "rainbow and unicorn crowd") is that they leave water out for migrants, which he says only encourages illegal entry to the United States. "They're like, 'Aww, the poor people.' I'm like, 'You don't like it, move.' They say they're saving lives. No you're not, you're encouraging them to do stupid shit.

"At Spring Break, you see these 19- or 20-year-olds volunteering [with the humanitarian organisations]. Just rock-hard gorgeous, no sag, wearing tube tops and Daisy Duke shorts and I'm going, 'Are you out of your mind? Do you think because you're carrying water for them that if they run into you they're not going to go, "Man, I haven't fucked anything in a couple of weeks"?' They're delusional. I mean, I was sitting there going, 'Man, what I could do to that.' I'm even having these thoughts – no bra, just a tube top, and it's just perfect. Then you look at the ass cheeks hanging out."

Nailer tells me he's been accused of racism and misogyny.

Carolyn Gallaher, an expert in militia groups and paramilitaries at the American University's School Of International Service, told me the definition of a militia is an unregulated, often locally oriented group that carries out some kind of informal "law enforcement" role.

"[AZBR] sounds like a classic militia," she said. "They're armed and doing patrols. But it's not uncommon to reject names that outside groups put on them."

The fact Nailer now seems critical of Trump makes sense, she said. "Militia groups are anti-government, anti-state. So it's a tension. They certainly like him much more than Barack Obama, but there's a cognitive dissonance when your whole ideology has been steeped in anti-government notions."

She also told me they sounded dangerous. "If a group is legal, like Border Patrol, there's an avenue to complain about the way a commander behaves. If this group's leader doesn't answer to anybody, it's dangerous mostly for those people they're picking up. If you're a Hispanic person who is an American citizen and happen to be on the border, think about it in terms of the terror or trauma you'll experience if they apprehend you. If you're an economic migrant, it's already terrifying to cross the border having to [confront] cartels and government forces."

Back at the base, I walk up a hill opposite the main tent where three volunteers are manning a lookout post. They sit on lawn chairs under a canvas awning next to a table on which are two pairs of binoculars and a set of radios. One of the men peers through a telescope on a tripod pointed at a mountain in the distance. All are carrying AR-15 semi-automatic rifles and handguns.

The man looking through the telescope is Jeremy Stigletz, a 48-year-old retired military policeman who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Mogadishu. Although he now lives in Mississippi ("where I sit by the pool and drink beer all day"), he tells me he had a few friends who died of drug overdoses and was compelled to volunteer when he found AZBR online and discovered that they were trying to make a dent in the narcotics trade. "I filled out an application and figured maybe I can do some good down here."

Sitting next to him is Jon (he won't give his last name). Until he retired from his job as a military aviation contractor two years ago, the 56-year-old lived in the Pacific Northwest. Now he lives in Yuma, Arizona. "Even though everything that grows out here has a thorn or a barb on it, to me nothing is more beautiful than the desert."

Jon first found out about AZBR watching the Netflix documentary with his wife. "Tim says in the film he could do with some help down here with the human trafficking and the shit-bag cartels. There's right and there's wrong, and what [the cartels] are doing is wrong so I thought if I could do anything in my power to help stop it I would."

This is Jon's third operation. They haven't seen any action this time round, but a few months ago he found himself chasing a migrant in the desert. "He was the lead guy and just as I rounded the corner he dropped his backpack. They all drop their backpacks if you chase them because they don't want to get caught with phones, radios, dope or whatnot, because then it's worse for them if they're caught by Border Patrol.

"He turned south to go up this embankment and I was closing in, I guess about 30 feet from him, but then he chose a heavily vegetated route up the side of this hill – nothing but prickly pear and tall cholla cactus – so I didn't follow him."

Jon turned back and found his colleague standing over the discarded backpack. Diego (he won't give his last name either) says inside was a huge bag of marijuana, some radios and batteries. "One of them must have been hurt because there were bloody bandages and antibacterial cream in there too."

Nailer called Border Patrol to tell them what had happened and to come and pick up the stash.

Back at the camp, I sit next to Randon Berg, Nailer's right-hand man. Thirty years old, with a full beard and piercing eyes, he cuts an imposing figure. The pair met two years ago on a tracking course.

When Berg got out of the military, he worked in construction, but he says going from being a noncommissioned officer in the Army "and being in charge" to being a $10-an-hour labourer with no work experience was tough.

"It happens a lot with combat arms guys… It's like, well, I know how to use explosives and a rifle, but that doesn't really transfer in a civilian world."

He started looking for like-minded people to train with and ended up falling in with a militia group (like Nailer, Berg refuses to call AZBR a militia). "Unfortunately the loudest ones are always the ones you meet first," he says. "And with the militia groups it seems like everyone just wants to put on their gear and stand around, but I was looking for people who actually get out and do stuff, who train and shoot."

I ask whether people like him are attracted to groups like AZBR for that precise reason – that disaffected military vets miss the camaraderie, the purpose and belonging? "Veterans that end up getting lost or just kind of floundering through life, yeah," he says. "Or they turn to drugs and alcohol because they don't have that drive anymore in their life that they had with a military. I remember I applied

Berg collects guns rather than put money in the bank: 'Shotguns hold their value'

for a job in an outdoor store and I had just come from living out of my truck in Alaska for three years, hiking, camping and doing everything I grew up doing, and they told me I had no experience. No retail experience."

When he came out of the army, Berg discovered that his sister and some of his friends had become hooked on heroin. She's clean now, but that's one of the reasons he wanted to join AZBR. "I'm not under an illusion that we're making a huge impact in the drug trade, but we're doing something," he says.

Today, he works for an event management company two hours away in Phoenix, but doesn't enjoy his job. He wants to find work near Arivaca. Near Nailer. Near Arizona Border Recon.

Andy Flowe, 47, is a retired marine. He left the military in 1994 and has worked mainly as a scuba diving instructor, but it's a seasonal job and he can't make a living. Now he works at a rock quarry. He sees volunteering with AZBR as a chance to continue serving his country. "Nailer," he tells me, "is a true American hero; the kind of guy that I'll follow anywhere."

This was Flowe's first time on an operation with AZBR. He isn't married and doesn't have children. He didn't tell his mother he was coming. "My stepfather is dying from Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam and that's enough stress on her without me adding any fuel to the fire – she wouldn't sleep a wink while I was gone. She thinks I'm shooting deer in North Carolina."

Flowe tells me the son of a friend of his overdosed on heroin. "His grandmother found him with a needle in his arm. I was tired of being one of the guys sitting around a campfire complaining about all of America's problems and this was a chance for me to come out and help."

As we talk, and the sun sinks lower in the sky, the other volunteers arrive back from walking the trails. Nailer begins to hold court, regaling us with stories about run-ins with officers from the US Fish And Wildlife Service ("duck cops", as he calls them) and conspiracy theories. "Bin Laden died years before he was supposedly killed by special forces," he says. I ask why they would lie about that. "The US needs a bogeyman," he replies. "Never trust your government."

Nailer says buying silver ("poor man's gold", he calls it) is safer than investing cash. "Tangible objects," he says. Berg tells him he collects guns rather than deposit money in a bank. "Buy a shotgun for $300. It holds its value."

I ask Nailer if he'll ever stop this: close down AZBR and his border patrols. "I don't know. I hope so one day," he says. "I tell people if this ever secured itself I probably would. I'd be in upstate Idaho. The mountains, the lakes, it's beautiful."

Right now, though, Nailer seems to relish his notoriety. Once the gear is packed up and the tents folded away, he leads the convoy several miles up the pot-holed road into Arivaca. He knows his neighbours will be watching. "There goes the militia," they'll say. But he doesn't care.

Back home, he'll unload his gear and wash his clothes (in a washing machine that sits in the open air on his acreage, next to his mobile home). He'll post photographs of the operation on Facebook – to encourage more donations, more volunteers and, inevitably, more media interest. Then he'll start to plan the next one. **GQ**

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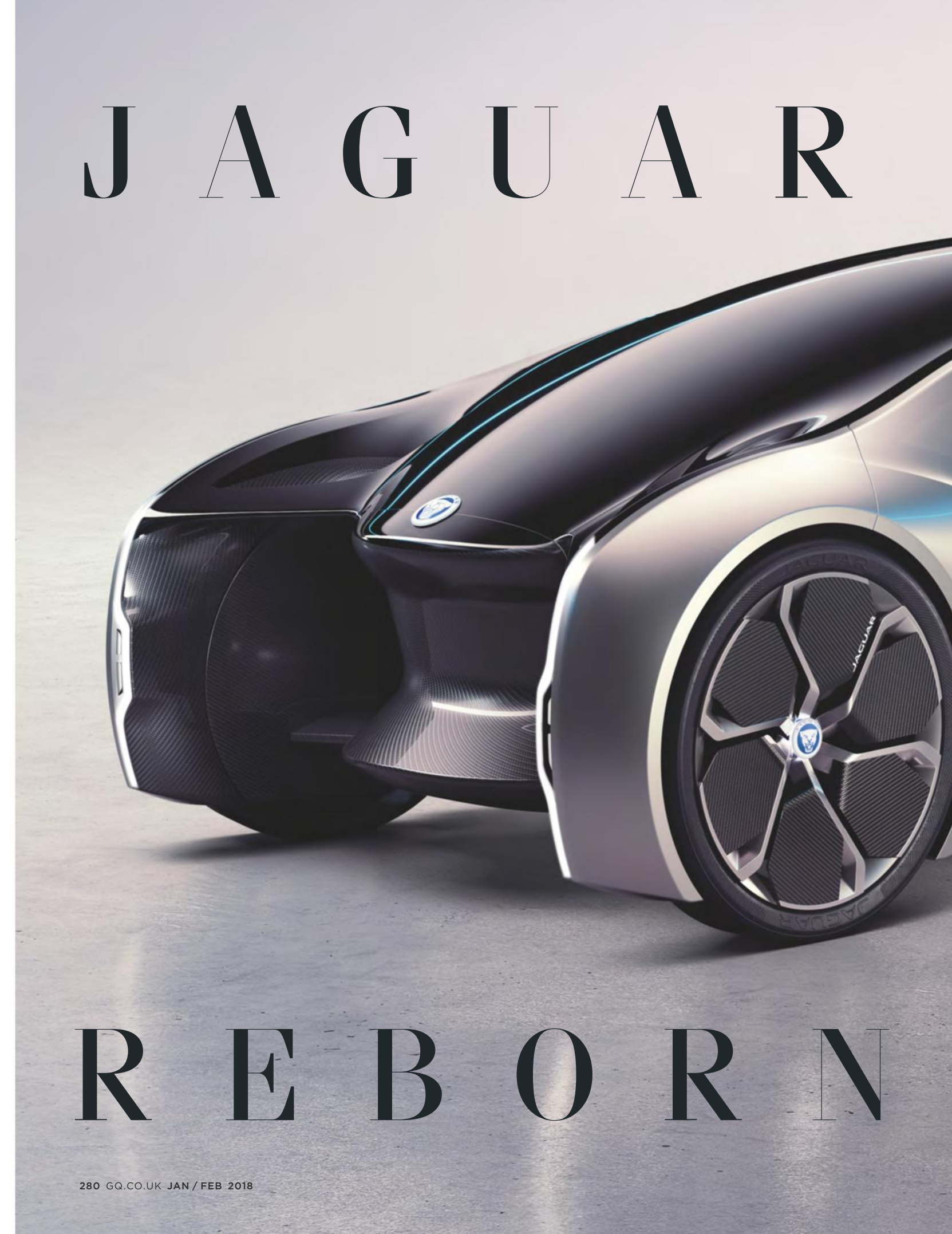


REBORN

‘I believe we have a real opportunity to create something totally different’

Ian Callum, Jaguar

On the prowl: Jaguar’s ‘Future-Type’ concept is a forward-thinking statement of intent

STORY BY **Jason Barlow**

In the Fifties, they built marvels of motor engineering. In the Sixties, they made them cool. These were decades that defined the last century, and now, from the E-Pace SUV to the electric I-Pace, Jaguar is making its marque on the future too

Withnail & I is a trenchant meditation on thwarted ambition. The 1987 Bruce Robinson classic sees Richard E Grant and Paul McGann's booze-sodden thespians go on holiday "by mistake". From their fetid Camden squat, they embark on a road trip that, while lacking in Kerouac-style atmosphere or existentialism, is still profound.

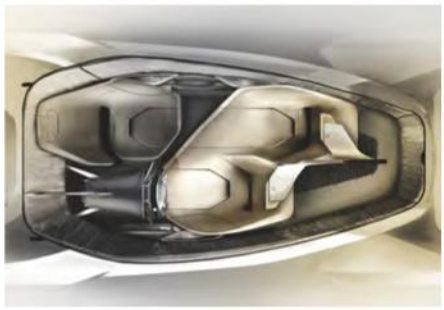
And they do it in a Jaguar. Robinson's decision to cast a dishevelled Mk II saloon in the film might have been coincidental, but with its one flickering headlamp and wracked bodywork, this old Jaguar was as much a metaphor for the demise of Sixties Britain as Withnail's self-destructive adventures with lighter fluid.

If ever you find yourself entirely in thrall to Jeremy Corbyn's polemic, it's worth remembering what a hash his Labour predecessors made of the British car industry. One of the biggest and most vibrant in the post-war world, its star player Jaguar scored no fewer than five overall wins at Le Mans in the Fifties and led a British invasion of the US when The Beatles and The Stones were still blues-obsessed schoolboys.

Two of the greatest cars of all time emerged, in 1959 and 1961, from the same few square miles in the Midlands. The first was the Mini, the other was the Jaguar E-Type, a sports car of such impossible grace and poise that even Enzo Ferrari himself was moved to describe it as the most beautiful car ever made. Together, they helped the Sixties swing.

The E-Type is one of a handful of cars that still reside in the Museum Of Modern Art's permanent collection in New York. But by the time it was replaced in 1975 by the XJ-S, Jaguar was just one of the great names subsumed within the nationalised British Leyland, a creaky monolith starved of investment and managed by a bunch of disinterested civil servants who were at the mercy of rabid trade unionists.

The cars remained characterful, often still beautiful, but chronic unreliability almost killed the brand completely in the North American market. It didn't help that the Germans were in the ascendancy; Jaguar may have pioneered the ultimate driving machine (that Mk II again), but by the Eighties this was firmly BMW's province. Even a magnificent win in the 1988 Le Mans 24 Hours with the XJR-9 – an epochal racing car – wasn't quite enough to dissipate the fog. Margaret Thatcher adored Jaguar CEO Sir John Egan, but she clearly wanted shot of the company. Ford bought it in 1989 then sold to Indian industrial giant Tata a decade ago.



Cabin fever (above and below): The 'Future-Type' concept pushes the limits of Jaguar innovation

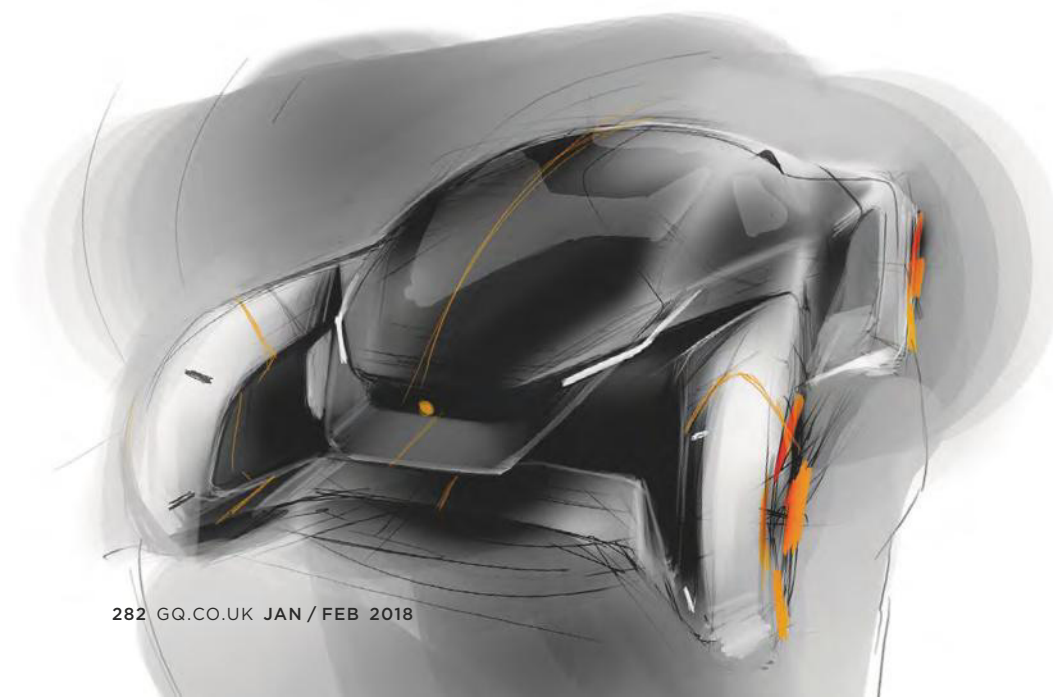
The purely electric I-Pace is determined to steal Elon Musk's thunder this year

Now, at last, Jaguar's renaissance is in full flow. Once the rather tweedy purveyor of luxury saloons and sports cars, it is now a world leader in aluminium engineering, making its cars lighter, stiffer and more efficient. Its design director, Ian Callum, has an innate grasp of what a Jaguar should be and look like and a world-class team of designers has enabled his vision. The company is also at the sharp end of the emerging electric revolution, determined to anticipate and drive the change that's consuming the car industry – and city government – rather than reacting to it. (None of the big automotive players predicted Tesla's vertiginous rise and the Model S is arguably the car the XJ should have been.) The purely electric I-Pace goes on sale later this year, determined to steal some of Elon Musk's thunder while still looking like a Jaguar. An entry in the increasingly relevant Formula E race series adds some competitive gloss to the company's ambitions.

When a Jaguar insider let slip to me a few years ago that an SUV was in development, I thought they'd lost the plot. But the world's appetite for 4x4s is insatiable and they knew it. Jaguar scored a home run with its full-size F-Pace off-roader and now it's back for more, only this time the barrier to entry is lower. The company launched its new small E-Pace crossover by having fearless/certifiable stunt driver Terry Grant execute a 15.3-metre, 270-degree flying barrel roll inside London's Excel centre, but no showbiz is needed. The E- and F-Pace – the reigning World Car Of The Year – should elevate Jaguar's global sales to more than 200,000 cars per year. That's still a fraction of BMW and Mercedes numbers, but the race is on and the strategy correct.

The E-Pace is unusually pretty for this type of car and wears Jaguar's head- and tail-light graphics, grille and rear wheel-arch curves with an elegance that's more difficult to achieve than it seems. Its structure borrows from its Range Rover cousin, the Evoque, but gets a host of Jaguar-specific upgrades. The bonnet, roof, front wings and tailgate are all made of aluminium, while the chassis itself is very rigid and a clever suspension setup guarantees ride and handling finesse. The E-Pace looks and feels more like the overtly sporty F-Type inside than it does the less persuasive XE saloon. Even the driving position is unusually low for an SUV.

The truth is, an E-Pace in the right spec is a great approximation of a 2020s-era hot hatch, so the question isn't so much why now, as why hasn't it happened sooner. Where Jaguar has been is fascinating and culturally important. But not as fascinating as where it's headed next. **JB**



Formula E adds a competitive gloss to Jaguar's ambitions

Emission status: Panasonic Jaguar Racing's Formula E race car, the I-Type 2, is driven this season by Mitch Evans and Nelson Piquet Jr

Jaguar knows the world's appetite for 4x4s is insatiable

Leap year: The new generation of Jaguars, including the E-Pace SUV crossover, were conceived to lead 21st-century driving trends

JAGUAR REBORN

FROM DRAWN TO DRIVEN

Jaguar's director of design, Ian Callum, explains why the power of innovation is now a matter of millimetres

Historically, a Jaguar features quite an eclectic mix of graphics. A Jaguar always needs to have a sense of excitement and one of the best ways of doing that is to give it a sense of exaggeration. The bonnets were longer, the roofs were lower, the wheels were bigger. There was always something on a Jaguar that said, "This is not quite the norm."

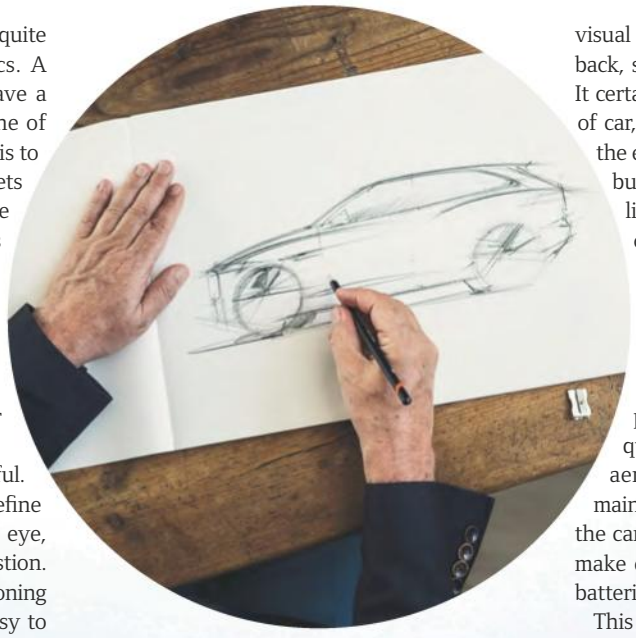
Look at the SS100: it had big lamps, it was chiselled, even then the wings tended to over-exaggerate the body. Those big elements: that's what founder Sir William Lyons was great at.

Everything you look at has to be beautiful. It must be *easy* to look at. I personally define beauty as something that's easy on the eye, that you can enjoy without having to question. I don't have a problem with people questioning things, but I think a Jaguar has to be easy to assimilate. As with anything creative, it takes a long time to get that simplicity right. It's much easier to make something extreme without considering the overall balance.

So what we're talking about is a combination of exaggeration and beauty. Then there has to be a balance between muscularity and sensuality. A Jaguar can be assertive, but it can never be vulgar. It has a masculinity and a femininity to it. It's a difficult balance to achieve, without ending up creating a car that looks too aggressive, too cute or simply indifferent. Stance is vital on a modern Jaguar. Although it is widely regarded as the most beautiful car of all time, the E-Type didn't have stance, as we accept it now, but it had incredible presence, because its geometry is so pure. Its fuselage sort of floats in space, so it works. The E-Type is full of exaggeration, that's why people love it. The profile of the coupé drops off so dramatically and the ratio of the cabin to the bonnet is almost ridiculous. But it works.

Exaggeration, in 2017, is difficult: it's done by degrees. We push for every millimetre, because that's all that we have left to play with now. If you take the generic numbers that we're given to produce a car, you'll end up with a shape that's almost exactly the same as everything else. So what we try to do is push it slightly away from that, by exaggerating a line here or there. But the legislation – on crash testing, for example – is making it increasingly difficult.

Now we're getting into the era of electric cars. Some designers want to maintain the traditional profile because that's what people are familiar with, but I believe there's a real opportunity here to create something that's totally different. We haven't seen enough electric cars yet to know whether the form will change that much.



Next in line: Under today's safety legislation, giving new cars, such as the F-Pace, a distinct visual language means exaggerating minor details

A Jaguar can be assertive but never vulgar. Stance is vital

In many ways, what's underneath [the batteries and ancillaries] is more predetermined than ever, but less so in terms of what's on top. With the I-Pace, I was determined to throw the visual elements forward rather than leaning it back, so it looks more like a mid-engined car. It certainly spells out that it's a different kind of car, and not in a contrived way. Packaging the electrical powertrain gives you freedom, but it means the whole car needs to be lifted up. Which goes against the essence of what a Jaguar is.

That's why the I-Pace was a "crossover", so we could deal with that. Does the saloon car in its current form have a future, for physical and social reasons? It's a big question. We believe it does. It's better for aerodynamics and we'll find a way of maintaining that form without having to lift the car up in the air. We're under pressure to make everything taller, to accommodate the batteries under the floor.

This is the most challenging period I've ever known. There are changes coming and it's causing the industry anguish. When you're involved in something that costs billions of pounds, which way do you jump? And when? You have to make the decision at some point. But it's also enormously exciting and we're experimenting with that on the "Future-Type".

You phone a car, it turns up. You use it and it disappears again. It's a two-seater, optimised for urban use, but it respects the brand values. Again, it's a bit exaggerated to make a point. You have a steering wheel [called Sayer, in tribute to Jaguar designer Malcolm Sayer] and that's your personality, your input into the car. You own the wheel; you don't own the car. The sports car or supercar as we know it now might become a weekend toy, more of an overt entertainment, so we can take that to extremes.

The perfect Jaguar? Well, it may not have been done yet.

Photographs **Ian Callum; Jaguar**

The E-Type Zero has a range of 168 miles on one charge

JAGUAR REBORN

E-TYPE ZERO: THE PAST, FUTURE PROOFED

What's under the hood of the car above? Clue: it's quieter, cleaner and even more radical than the screaming straight-six you'd expect...

Jaguar Land Rover's fast-growing Classic division has so far revived super-rare Sixties lightweight E-Types, the XKSS and the original Range Rover. But the E-Type Zero is surely its boldest play yet: this is a Sixties E-Type, re-engineered as a fully electric car. This is either a form of wanton cultural vandalism or the year's most sublimely clever idea.

Whatever your view, it certainly works. The disconnect between what you're primed to expect from a classic Jaguar – noise – and what you actually get is unsettling, but in a good way. The E-Type Zero glides off, with only the faintest sci-fi thrum to accompany the forward motion. The deal-breaker here, though, is that the electric powertrain has been retrofitted without wreaking havoc with the E-Type's legendary looks – an act that wouldn't just have been vandalism; it would have been heresy.

Yet the question remains: why?

"It's not unthinkable that a city like London could ban internal-combustion vehicles at some point in the future," JLR Classic director Tim Hannig says, "so we think this is a way of future-proofing classic car ownership. The E-Type is the most tightly packaged Jaguar and we haven't changed the structure at all, so we can convert any classic Jaguar into an EV.

"Not only that, we know that there's an audience out there who is attracted to the style of a classic car but doesn't want the inconvenience that can sometimes come with it. We also understand the guys who crave originality might have issues with it. We'll see what the market makes of the concept."

The batteries sit in the same space under the E-Type's bonnet as the recently evicted 4.2-litre straight-six engine, with the electric motor and reduction gear just behind it (where the gearbox used to be). A new prop shaft sends power to the differential and final drive, while the inverters and control units fit in the boot without eating up all the space.

The power density and efficiency of battery packs is constantly improving, but they're still heavy, just not as heavy as a 4.2-litre, six-

Photographs **Ink; Charlie Magee**

Volt from the blue: By replacing the original innards, the E-Type Zero – codenamed 'Dylan' – has gone electric

cylinder Jaguar engine – the Zero is 80kg lighter than the original. And because the car's structure is unmolested, the old hardware can always be put back in. Jaguar claims a range of 168 miles on a full charge and a 0-62mph time of 5.5 seconds. Recharging the battery takes six to seven hours, but given the user profile of most classic cars, that's no big issue.

Not even the most highly paid futurologists are prepared to predict how rapid the uptake on electric cars will be. But if Jaguar can fit an EV powertrain into every car that ran the 4.2-litre engine – a huge range of different models spanning 1949 to 1992 – without mangling the bodywork, they might have answered a question most of us had yet to ask. It's an expensive question and one that's liable to alienate as many people as it attracts. The E-Type Zero's codename during development was "Marmite", but as it evolved it became known instead as "Dylan", in honour of the great man's electric conversion at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival. It didn't hold him back. **JB**

JAGUAR REBORN

THE GREATEST EVER BRITISH RACING CAR

Built to reach high speeds in style, if not comfort, the Jaguar D-Type navigated triumph and disaster on its way to becoming a national legend

Appreciating the D-Type is a bit like appreciating The Beatles. Or breathing. It's beautiful to look at, fantastic to drive and also won the most evocative, demanding motor race of them all, the Le Mans 24 Hours race, three times on the bounce, in 1955, 1956 and 1957. The car that won in '56 sold for $21.78 million at the RM Sotheby's event in Monterey in 2016, moving this Jaguar into the realm of fine art. Ralph Lauren, the doyen of historic car collecting, has owned a D-Type for years.

The D-Type's development was overseen by Jag's technical genius Malcolm Sayer, whose background in aviation helped mould its radical appearance. Sitting in one is certainly akin to being trussed up in an old aircraft cockpit; the chassis used a central tub made of riveted aluminium, with a spar down the middle separating driver and passenger compartment. A fin was later added to enhance high-speed stability and a long-nose version arrived in 1955 to improve the car's top speed.

The D-Type's engine is an engineering masterpiece, a living, breathing, mechanical sculpture of the sort they simply don't – can't – make any more. The 250bhp, 3.4-litre XK twin-cam was all-aluminium to reduce weight, and its triple Weber carbs fed the engine. Tricky at low revs, it pulls with unquenchable urge as it gathers momentum, delivering an unsurpassable wail. *GQ* drove the Mille Miglia classic road race in a 1956 D-Type, alongside its owner, classic car broker and expert Simon Kidston. As with all old racing cars, the rev counter is the only instrument that really matters, the steering wheel is so huge it's practically in your lap, while the gear lever is a delicate little wand. The D-Type also uses a triple-plate racing clutch and the gear change needs a challenging mix of brute force and subtlety. Those triple carbs don't like big throttle inputs, either, but this is all part of the D-Type's initiation procedure: when you get it right, it's way more satisfying than a modern car simply because it's much more challenging. As with the E-Type, this is one of those cars that casts an inescapably large shadow. Jaguar's top brass respect that, but they're also ready to accelerate away from it. **JB**

In full flow: With a fin for stability and long nose for higher top speed, the D-Type remains the most perfect expression of form and performance

The D-Type's engine is a masterpiece, a living, breathing, mechanical sculpture

Fortune favours the brave. That, and the tall and very handsome

Suit, £2,300. Shirt, £350.
Both by **Dior Homme**. dior.com

Rande Gerber's billion dollar hangover

One man's fantasy – a supermodel wife, the A-list best friend, over-achieving children, bottomless bank account and a preternatural instinct for the good life – is another's reality. So how did the cofounder of Casamigos bottle success? GQ meets him in Malibu to talk straight up about Studio 54, Cindy Crawford and how distilling tequila with George Clooney made him one of the richest men on the planet

STORY BY **Jonathan Heaf** PHOTOGRAPHS BY **John Russo**

Photograph **Getty Images** Stylist **Mark Holmes**

Hollywood is burning. It's early October and journalists Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey's investigation for the *New York Times*, followed by Ronan Farrow's further revelations for the *New Yorker,* into Harvey Weinstein's decades-long sexual deviancy has torched dark corners of the industry and left, quite rightly, many of Hollywood's rich and powerful reeling. There are whispers of spies, ex-Mossad agents and a murky organisation called Black Cube. The Hills shudder at the horror of it all.

About an hour north of the cryotherapy sessions and juice bars of central Hollywood, a different blaze is raging – a real one this time – with LAFD's Ladders battling the largest wildfire ever seen in the city's history.

Thick, acrid smoke drifts out towards the city's limits; its inhabitants go about their lives under a lid of perpetual twilight. To this visitor with a little long-haul wooziness, it feels like the end of something and not yet the start of something else. If this were a film the hero's fate would, as of right now, be uncertain.

As I drive west from Hollywood to the coast, turning right onto the Pacific Coast Highway at Santa Monica Pier and then propelling my rental due north, it's unquestionably something of a relief to be heading into bright, light Malibu, a wealthy spit of Cali coastline that cosies up against the tumbling Pacific Ocean like an expensive Hermès cashmere quilt.

Here in this exclusive neighbourhood the sun is still high, the houses are all draped in billowing Egyptian ivory linen, and the chill is as deep and as rolling as the perfect foaming surf. If anywhere in Los Angeles still believes in California's "sure thing" – its postcard naivety and its disconnect from the real world – it is Malibu. It's the sort of place where its wealthy residents are still allowed to believe in fairy tales – the last post of unabashed privilege.

Casamigos' headquarters – the tequila brand started by businessman Rande Gerber, actor George Clooney and property mogul Mike Meldman in 2013, which sold in June 2017 to British drinks company Diageo for a bar-slamming $700 million (£534m), with an additional $300 million (£228m) slice of lime on the table for expansion over the next ten years – is located on the upper deck of a small retail park set back from Malibu Lagoon State Beach.

It's a Monday, just gone midday, and the shops and restaurants are jangling with the odd uncommitted customer. Gerber's office sits directly above a large James Perse boutique – a man who has done more to promote the idea of "Californian cool" than perhaps any other designer – and next door to a restaurant that serves zero per cent "beef" burgers.

The Casamigos office is two rooms: the main office space and a "den", complete with photographs of employees at office parties holding "Fuck Patrón!" banners and a bespoke ping-pong table. (A testament to Gerber's aesthetics, this is perhaps the first time any journalist has been able to describe a ping-pong table as either beautiful, or bespoke, let alone both.)

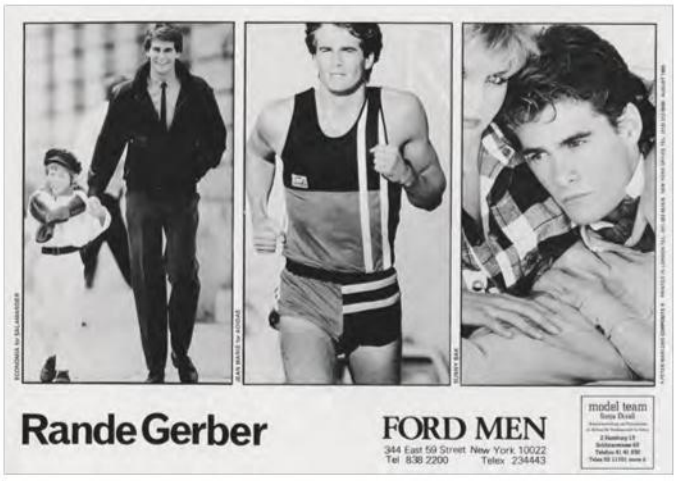
The placement of objects throughout is meticulous. Someone, for example, has spent a great deal of time printing out snaps of Gerber, Clooney and their famous friends – everyone from Bono to Barack Obama enjoying a glass or two of Casamigos – and pinning them up along one wall like big game trophies.

There are nine women here in total today, all between their early twenties and thirties, all noticeably good-looking, and all busying themselves on laptops, sat on dark couches or at polished wooden tables in front of desktop computers. It's quiet. Almost too quiet. There's a sense the boss is due on the shop floor at any moment, which of course he is.

Rande Gerber, 55, strolls through the glass doors looking every inch the ex-model, billionaire liquor brand owner. He's tall, lean and perfectly tanned. If I'm honest, he looks precisely like the man who *should* be married to Cindy Crawford. (He is.) His shirt is a rich military green, tucked in and unbuttoned just so, not too sleazy, neither too prudish. His jeans are a dark indigo wash, narrow but not wincingly skinny.

Refreshingly, nothing about his style is ostentatious, nor worn with a sense of needy non-conformity, something many LA men over 30 fail to remember when getting dressed. Gerber's smile is inclusive and boyish rather than anything more Machiavellian. Despite the hush tones of his Casamigo coworkers, there's no sense of an ego pushing into the boardroom, no sense of a chest-thumping, CEO-as-silverback strategy. Noticeably, there is only one other male worker here, the brand's creative director. Gerber and I take our seats in the smaller room away from the quiet, beautiful melee.

Directly below casa Casamigos is Gerber's bar, Café Habana, a bar and restaurant enjoyed by the likes of family friend and LA resident Harry Styles and Gerber's 16-year-old daughter, Kaia, not least for its *huevos rancheros,* but also for its sense of pap-proof privacy – the bar's sun deck is fenced off »



Family values: Kaia, Rande and Presley Gerber with Cindy Crawford for Omega; (right) Ford represented the Casamigos cofounder in the Eighties

Photograph **Peter Marlowe**

‘It was either go legit or stop, so we decided to go into business together’

A fine bromance: Business partners George Clooney and Rande Gerber take a motorbike trip through Mexico

‘In the morning George thought, drink Casamigos and wake up with Cindy Crawford!’

Suit, £2,300. Shirt, £350. Both by **Dior Homme**. dior.com

» from the outside world by a lush wall of bamboo and banana plants.

Gerber has a story he likes to tell about the café. It's a good story and one worth retelling, although it's not just a story about its main protagonists – Gerber, Clooney and a large bottle of tequila, steadily getting sunk – but one that can explain precisely why the Casamigos brand has been so successful: an augmented reality blended into a lasting, aspirational mythology. Or in other words, brilliant storytelling.

"The café downstairs was the place George and I came the day, five years ago, we realised we had to take this whole tequila thing a little more seriously," Gerber says.

To rewind, Gerber and Clooney were already pretty serious about tequila. Over a decade ago the pair built two houses next to one another in Mexico. They named them "Casamigos" or "house of friends". Although they enjoyed drinking the local liquor, they could never find a tequila blend smooth enough to drink straight up, or without a lime chaser to cloak what Gerber almost fondly calls "the burn". So, seven years ago, in 2010, they did what any perfectionist, multimillionaire hedonists would do: they decided to make their own.

"We called a friend, Mike Meldman, who is in the real estate business," Gerber explains. "He has some connections in Mexico and he put us in contact with a big distillery. We started the process. It took a long time to get right. But 700 samples down and a year later we found our drink. It was perfect. And most importantly, no burn." So far, so indulgent. But not, as yet, a $1 billion business.

Five years ago, everything changed. It had to. "We got a call from our distillery. Turned out the amount of tequila we were consuming was a little excessive." How much were they drinking? "Around 1,000 bottles a year," Gerber chuckles. "Listen, we were giving a lot away to friends and family, but still the law didn't allow for us to be producing so much booze without being licensed. It was either go legit or stop production. So, we decided to go into business together."

Cut back to that scene in the café five years ago: "So George and I are in Café Habana talking about launching this business – the design of the bottle, who we'd get to distribute it. We were excited about doing more with our tequila than *just* drinking it. Anyway, we got dead drunk. Now, George can usually hold himself, but that night there's no way he was going to drive home. So, he came out to my house here in Malibu. I have a little guest house on the beach and George usually stays there. If I've had a couple of drinks I will stay in the guest room in the main house, rather than bother Cindy. But things didn't go to plan that night. George is like, 'You know what, I think I'll just stay in the guest room…'"

So Gerber goes to see if his children are all tucked in and Clooney wanders off. "George crashed out and I fell asleep with the kids. Now, Cindy wakes up at some point and wonders, 'Where the fuck is Rande?' So, she gets up and goes into the guest room looking for me. She sees a body, face-down, fully clothed, motorcycle boots on, phone in hand. So, she gets in and she whispers, 'Babe, why don't you take your clothes off and get under the covers?' And with that, George wakes up and is like, 'Huh?'" Gerber relishes the payoff that came to them shortly after: "Drink Casamigos and wake up with Cindy Crawford!" Or as Cindy saw it that night: "Drink Casamigos and wake up with George Clooney!"

It's a story that, with a few embellishments, eventually became a video the trio – alongside Clooney's then-girlfriend Elisabetta Canalis – shot for the launch of their newly formed premium tequila brand, Casamigos, a brand distributed by Southern Wine & Spirits to 50 states from day one, a national deal the size of which is unprecedented. It's pure storytelling, pure Casamigos and pure Rande Gerber: one man's reality, another man's fantasy. And if you can bottle that? Well, you get a lot closer to answering the billion-dollar question.

'Seven hundred samples down and we found our drink'

Rande Gerber was born in Queens, New York, in 1962, growing up on the south shore of Long Island. The household was "your typical, middle-class family setup".

Gerber's father, Jordan, worked as a salesman for a jeans company. "He'd make the commute, work nine to five, clock in and out, every day. The weekends were barbecues and basketball, just hanging out in the neighbourhood with my two brothers. Pretty unremarkable."

Gerber's parents split when he was 13, so on the weekends he would travel into the city to see his father. Exposure at a young age to such a swarming and, back then, dangerous urban sprawl, seemed to have a profound impact on the budding entrepreneur. As he got a little older, those bright NYC city nights started to draw in the tall, athletic kid from the suburbs. "Around 16 I began going out with friends to the city. That's where the action was. We would go to this place on Times Square – real shifty – and get fake IDs made up. I got mugged there one night, actually."

In 1977, Steve Rubell and Ian Schrager opened Studio 54; the most glamorous nightclub the city had ever seen. Though neither would know it then, Schrager would go on to become one of the most significant players in Gerber's working life. "Studio 54 was the place you could never get into," remembers Gerber of the club, a scene renowned for its glamour, decadence and iron-fisted door policy.

"Of course, the place you can't get into is the place everyone is trying to get into. We parked up one night and there must have been 200 people outside. We were like, 'We're never going to get in!' Still, we puffed out our chests and got in line. Somehow, this guy at the door under the ropes looks at me and asks, 'How many?' And just like that we're through." Fortune favours the brave. Well that, and as regards to cool nightclub queues, the tall, the blond and the very handsome.

That same year, aged 16, Gerber was picked out from another crowd, this time on a bustling New York street. "I was in the city one day and a photographer asks, 'Are you a model?' He asked if he could take some pictures. I gave him my info and I didn't think anything of it. A week later I got a call from Ford, a modelling agency. 'Do you want to be a model?' I just replied, 'What does that mean?' They told me I could travel and earn some decent money. I mean, why not?"

Gerber went to college in Arizona and then, to some extent, drifted. "I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I thought I wanted to work in music production for a while. I worked for a film producer. Then I was given the opportunity to open a bar in New York. So, I was like, 'You know what, I'm going to give it a shot.'"

It was 1991 and Gerber was working in real estate, representing Ian Schrager, the man who co-owned the only nightclub he ever wanted to get into, aged 16. Studio 54 had been infamously busted for tax fraud in 1978 and, since getting out of jail a couple of years later (he would receive a presidential pardon of all charges from Obama in 2017), Schrager had reinvented himself as a doyen of hot NYC hoteliers. Gerber was charged by Schrager to find suitable bars and restaurants to put in these new "boutique" hotels, first and foremost The Paramount Hotel on 235 West 46th Street.

"I was looking for someone to do a cool bar with," remembers Schrager. "Rande had a nice way about him. You know, it's hard to find people in nightlife that don't look like vampires during the day. I asked Rande for some ideas about who could open the bar in The Paramount and I didn't react to any of them. So, I asked Rande to do it. I told him, 'Rande, this isn't rocket science!'" »

» They named it The Whiskey and it opened in August 1991. Looking back at a nightlife column that ran in the *New York Times* that year in September, it seems Schrager was right to put his faith in Gerber, then 29. "For the moment, at least," the editorial reads, "the Whiskey is the hottest spot in the theater district, if not the city. It is unquestionably the place to be seen."

The hype continues: "'It's a happening spot in a cool hotel,' said Larry Lieberman, 30, who works for MTV and was sitting with... Ross Zapin, who is 28 and works for a record company. 'Between 1 and 3am this place is awesome,' [said Zapin]. 'You're not getting the single-breasted crowd here, you're getting the double-breasted guys.'"

Enabled by Schrager, Gerber had created something we now take for granted as part of our 24-hour cityscapes – the destination hotel bar. "I wanted it to feel like a mellow rock'n'roll lounge rather than a club," Gerber explains of that first place. "We had some café tables in there, a couple of couches, armchairs and about a dozen tall bar stools. There was a long mahogany bar and I lined the walls with Polaroids. It was a sophisticated crowd." When did he realise the bar was a hit? "When we had 1,000 people outside trying to get into a space that holds 75."

Gerber would go on to open a number of bars with Schrager, not least the Skybar at Mondrian Los Angeles, which for many years was by far the hottest bar on the planet. He also was one of the very first businessmen to spot the potential of South Beach, opening a branch of his Whiskey bar in Miami.

In 2000, however, their mentor/prodigy relationship soured spectacularly as Gerber's ambition and energy saw him sign a deal with another hotelier, Starwood, to open new hotel bars around the world, not least the Wet Bar in NYC. Gerber insists that he had Schrager's blessing, although at the time Schrager didn't quite see it that way: "I gave Rande his start," he fumed to the *New York Post*. "I expected nothing in return other than the decency and integrity to honour his word." The *Post* gleefully described the pair's feud as, "Bar Wars!"

"I would take what the *Post* writes with a large pinch of salt," says Schrager today. "Did we have a falling out? Sure. Have we patched it up? Yes. We didn't speak for years. To Rande's credit he was staying at one of my new hotels a few years ago and he dropped me a note. It said, simply, 'You still got it!' That gives you an idea of the sort of person Rande is – he's a class act, a gentleman."

I ask Schrager what he thinks the secret of Casamigos' success might be. George's star quality? The perfect "no burn" blend? Something else more ethereal? "It all helps. But listen, let's be realistic: tequila is tequila to most people at 2am, although to the more discerning drinker Rande's is better. Essentially, he has the same liquor as everyone else. But what Rande has – much like that first bar, with the design, the lighting, the music – is the experience that goes with the tequila. The story. Casamigos is about selling a vibe. And Rande is a genius at conjuring that vibe." Does Schrager drink tequila? "Sure! Casamigos! No hangover! I mean, why the hell didn't I think of that?"

At 55, Rande Gerber's fame and that of his family is only just beginning and one can't help but notice the Gerbers' steep trajectory doesn't feel too unlike that of another famous LA-clan, the Kardashians.

The week before I sit down with the Casamigos CEO in Malibu, in fact, his entire family is the talk of the fashion world. His wife starred as part of a spectacular finale for the Versace show alongside a triumph of other supermodels, while his son, Presley, 18, walked

'George can usually hold himself, but that night he crashed out'

for Ralph Lauren, sharing a catwalk with the designer's collection of vintage Ferraris. In October, the entire family were signed up to Omega watches – Crawford has been an ambassador since she was very young – in a deal thought to be worth millions.

Yet for all the noise, it is Gerber's 16-year-old daughter, Kaia, who has every set of industry eyes on her at the moment and who is commended for both her incredible looks and also her professionalism. If Kendall Jenner got into modelling through sheer will and social media, Kaia might simply be described as "the Natural".

Kaia is floating about the office today, in fact, and halfway through my interview with Gerber she pops in – all Balenciaga bucket hat, white singlet and camo pants. She mentions a dental appointment and asks if she can get her father something from the café downstairs. Twenty minutes later, her long limbs swaying gently like the palms that line Sunset Boulevard, she delivers her father's requested iced beverage. "The benefits of home schooling," Rande laughs. After Kaia sashays off you can sense a father's pride: "She just got her driving licence and she's all, 'Dad, I'm just popping out, can I get you anything from the market?' So sweet."

With all the talk of predatory behaviour, not least in the fashion world concerning young models, I ask if Gerber had reservations about his daughter entering this very adult world at such a tender age? "I definitely did at this young age, sure. I have always told my kids I will support their decisions, however, and she enjoys modelling, loves it. As much as I thought she's too young and it was hard for me to see her during Paris Fashion Week having to wake at 4am and go to a fitting, these opportunities all came to her and, well, I couldn't say no."

Well, you could have said no, I say, respectful, one father to another. "Listen, Cindy has been there, she knows a lot of the people looking out for her. If we heard of anything inappropriate we wouldn't hesitate to reel her back in and draw the line. Kaia is, I think, very responsible. She's on time. She turns it on. And she's lucky – she doesn't *have* to do it. She's not doing it for the money. Of course, I wish she could just stay as my little girl, at home, getting me smoothies and not have any pressure, but that's not realistic. She's just growing up so fast. I'm her dad, what else am I going to say?"

Before we finish up Gerber walks me back through the office, ending up perched on his desk, a beautiful hand-carved slab of timber, waxed, polished and planed. Unsurprisingly, Gerber's power desk, found directly in front of the glass entrance, has been postioned to project maximum vibeyness – a lifestyle with no burn.

Casamigos-branded candles, shot glasses, even surfboards are displayed alongside rare first-edition books, one of Gerber's own beautiful guitars and black and white images of Jim Morrison and Mick Jagger by rock photographer Jim Marshall. It all gives a sense of curated rebellion, not unlike, it must be said, a really cool hotel bar.

"Yeah, funny that," Gerber smiles, shaking my hand and walking me to the door. I have to ask him, I say, having closed the liquor deal of the century, why does he still bother coming into the office? "I was here at my desk the very next day. What else am I going to do? Play golf? George would kill me."

Ah, a modern bromance (and cool $1bn) made at the bottom of bottle. Clooney and Gerber's very own tequila sunrise: it'll make a great story one day. **GQ**

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The Washington Post rechristened its masthead: 'Democracy dies in the dark'

Trump Lets Loose Against Critics

1155 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Owner goals: Jeff Bezos' (left) Washington Post and Rupert Murdoch's (right) Wall Street Journal have different takes on Donald Trump, neither wholly supportive

Photographs Alamy; Getty Images

PAPER TIGERS:
How Trump sparked civil war

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told Mr. Trump on Thursday
that he couldn't accept the
job, according to people famil-
iar with the conversations.
Adm. Harward confirmed his
decision in a statement.
The development repre-
sents a setback for Mr. Trump
and delays the president's ef-
statements he
made about his contacts with
Please see PICK, page A4
retired Navy SEAL.
VOTER SCORN FOR STATUS QUO
Trump takes Powe
NEW PRESIDENT VOWS TO END 'AMERICAN CA
The Washington Post

As the man in the White House continues to cause rift and division, major US newspapers don't just report it – they fall victim to it. With owners and editors demanding different agendas, and discontent rife among junior staffers, who will win the battle to define journalism's new mission?

in the American press.

By Michael Wolff

Two opposite and instructive figures in US journalism during the Trump years are Gerard Baker, editor of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, and Martin Baron, editor of The Washington Post. Baker, a Brit, formerly of the *FT* and the *Times*, and Baron, a child of Israeli immigrants to Florida, ex *LA Times*, *New York Times* and *Boston Globe*, are members of the last generation of newspaper men to have spent the better part of their careers in a generally thriving business. Both men now lead papers controlled by billionaires who sustain these enterprises for largely non-economic reasons – quite likely the future of the quality newspaper, if there is to be a future. Baker's billionaire is Rupert Murdoch; Baron's is Jeff Bezos.

Both men are beholden to their proprietors and, as editors always are, in a complex dance to both pursue their own vision of the news and also please their boss. Each boss, given virtually no economic constraints, can be as demanding or capricious as suits his desires. The outside assumption is that Murdoch is more conservative and Bezos more liberal but, both being billionaires, caprice is likely as strong a motivation. At the same time, both editors have a great deal of autonomy in how they cover the news on a day-to-day basis and, in doing so, shape the narrative of the time.

While there are differences in the *WSJ* and *Post* markets, there is a greater overall similarity – an uppermost demographic seeking an authoritative news product. Both Baker and Baron run news organisations that, along with the *New York Times*, would generally be considered to represent the top talent in the business. While challenged by the severe revenue constraints in the newspaper business – mostly due to a dramatic fall in print advertising – both papers have had successes in maintaining large and growing readerships. By most objective measures, each paper, along with the *New York Times*, provides among the most comprehensive daily overviews of political, economic and international news.

But Baker is a journalism pariah and Baron a journalism hero.

This partly involves a new definition of journalism, which we will get to, but first, the difference between each man's journalistic approach.

Baker's premise is that a Trump presidency demands nothing more than good journalism as usual – the same type of detail-oriented, inclusive political coverage with a business-focus that the *WSJ* applied to other presidencies ought to work as well for this one.

Baron's view is that the Trump presidency is anomalous and requires both extra vigilance and even a systematic journalistic effort to undermine it.

Early in the Trump presidency, Baker drew fire with a policy of not calling Trump's exaggerations, hyperbole, misrepresentations or flights of fancy "lies". Calling something a lie – said Baker, making every effort not to prejudge the new president's style and character – assumed intent and perfidiousness.

Man among prints: Gerard Baker is the editor-in-chief of the Wall Street Journal

The new journalism sees its mission as getting rid of Donald Trump

At the *Post*, not long after Trump entered the White House, Baron rechristened the paper's masthead with the warning – perhaps less for its readers than for the White House itself – "Democracy dies in darkness." The *Post*, along with other right-minded journalism organisations, would, in other words, provide the light.

Faced with the most peculiar development in modern political history, Baker, no matter how much he might personally have doubted Trump's capabilities and plausibility, seemed intent on trusting and maintaining his paper's norms. In some obvious way, an important news outlet, by changing its approach to the news, changes the news. Baron, at the *Post*, saw a new peril that demanded a new kind of adverse relationship, arguably more focused on the character of the man than the particulars of the story. Baron seemed to regard Trump as a clear break in history.

The new definition of journalism has been promulgated through social media by many people who do not make their living in journalism. It is part of the increasing mix-up or partnership of journalism and politics, and it comes out of journalism schools trying to entice students into a business that will not offer them a job. Journalism has become a form of idealism. It is no longer, first and foremost, function, craft, service – it is mission.

Every journalism bromide – speaking truth to power, comforting the afflicted, afflicting the powerful – that otherwise would be hopelessly sappy to a journalist of any experience, has become a Twitter grail. The true business of journalism has become obscured because there is really no longer a journalism business. Journalism is more and more performed out of some greater sense of good, instead of profit.

In September, in an almost 4,000-word piece, the *Guardian* launched an attack on Baker and the *Wall Street Journal*. The *Guardian* is, of course, a prime exponent of the new journalism mission. In financial extremis, it needs to justify its rapid spending-down of its cash reserves as part of a higher purpose, which might include its own martyrdom. Accordingly, it faulted the *Journal* and its editor for, along with not doing its duty in aggressive pursuit of Trump, betraying all manner of higher journalistic values. A new bromide surfaced that distinguishes journalism from stenography – seeing journalism, in an about-face of its traditional function, as judge and jury of information rather than principally a recorder of it.

Two generations ago, when both Baker and Baron were first starting out in their careers, the most powerful editor in the business was AM Rosenthal at the *New York Times*. A generally detestable fellow who shepherded the title through the Pentagon Papers and

Photographs Justin T Gellerson/The New York Times/Redux/Eyevine; Monica Schipper/Getty Images

Watergate and into its most profitable era, Rosenthal saw one of his prime functions to be the reining in of the natural sentimental tendencies and overweening social consciences of his reporters. The tilt of a quality broadsheet, he believed, should fall in the authoritative middle – the news pages of the *Times* and the *Post* fell in the comfortable just-left-of-centre, the *WSJ* the comfortable just-right-of-centre.

Both the *Times* and the *Post*, well before Trump, were moving dramatically left. Now, with regular apoplexy, they turn every day under Trump into a dastardly climactic moment – arguably indicating a difficulty in judging relative importance. The *WSJ*, on the other hand, has, sometimes self-consciously, worked to stay in place. Given that the stock market has largely extended Trump the benefit of the doubt, the *Wall Street Journal* does the same. Indeed, deep in the *Guardian*'s story, it sheepishly noted, without comment, that a recent YouGov/*Economist* survey found the *Journal* to be the most trusted outlet among major US news organisations.

In any event, and putting aside a debate about journalism standards and purpose, the *Times*, the *Post* and the *Journal* each, in their way, reflect a greater targeting towards their audiences. The *Times* and *Post* have tried to achieve the clear positioning that more readily builds online traffic. They have also tried to align with a leftward movement of their major-urban-centre audience demographic (for instance, in the *Times* recently, a full-page story about why a Colorado baker won't bake a cake for a gay couple's wedding). The *Journal*, on its part, has largely continued to serve its longtime readership: businessmen with a middle-to-conservative tilt.

It is that latter target that, in the larger journalism community, is more and more regarded as inimical to journalism itself.

Of course, part of Baker and the *Journal*'s added problem is Murdoch, and the insidious influence it is assumed he brings to bear on the paper's coverage. This revives a narrative that flowered when Murdoch bought the paper in 2008. Then, he was the tabloid brigand and Fox News owner taking the journalistic gem (albeit a right-of-centre gem – with its further-right editorial page). But that story faded as he made significant new investment in the paper and it became one of the few quality news organisations actually building its staff.

But Murdoch is a Trumper – said to be actively currying favour with the new president. On the other hand, he is also said to not think very much of Trump and, indeed, to have encouraged both the *WSJ* and Fox News in the direction of anybody else, even Hillary Clinton, during the campaign. What's more, his sons, now the ranking executives at Murdoch-controlled Twentieth Century Fox and board members at Murdoch-controlled News Corp, the company that owns the *Journal*, are themselves card-carrying members of the *Times* and *Post* demographic and reliable anti-Trumpers.

Amazon warrior: The Washington Post's executive editor, Martin Baron

One young reporter asked why the Journal was collaborating

But, of course, Murdoch is Murdoch – and he sucks up to power. Pay no attention to the fact that Bezos has also sought his own entrée to and influence in the Trump White House.

The *WSJ* has seen a handful of high-profile newsroom departures – notably, Rebecca Blumenstein, the deputy editor, who went to the *Times*. Indeed, Trumpmania has suddenly created a new market for top journalism talent and, as well, for young and cheap talent – though not so much for anybody in between.

It is the young and the cheap who've highlighted particular Trump-related issues at the *Journal* and helped cause the backlash against it. Many, if not most, of these young and cheap staffers are part of the new higher-mission sense of journalism and the media consensus that Trump is a weird and dangerous president. They seem to find themselves as prisoners of the *Journal*'s efforts toward moderation – especially when compared to the *Times* and the *Post*. This has resulted in leaks to the *Times* and the *Post* (and to the *Guardian* and Buzzfeed, another young and cheap journalism organisation) about the *Journal*'s moderating efforts that, in the Trump age, have come to seem like a kind of quisling behaviour.

The *Journal* finds itself navigating a culture divide that has hit other sorts of companies. After the Charlottesville mayhem and the president's evident reluctance to single out white supremacists, almost every major-company CEO on the president's business counsel felt it necessary to resign – not least because of concerns about how their own employees, especially the younger ones, might react. Indeed, the president has been turned down in his efforts to secure legal help in the Russian-collusion investigation by nine major law firms. A worry for almost all of these firms was that representing Trump would cause anger if not outright rebellion among their younger members of staff.

Not long after the election, Baker held a meeting with a group of young reporters and editors at the *Journal*, many aghast over the paper's restraint. One young reporter, who announced that she had studied the history of genocide and that it starts with news organisations like the *Journal* and their willingness to normalise extremism, demanded that Baker explain why the *Journal* was collaborating.

This reflects the social and generational fragmentation of the nation, but it also reflects that most journalists have little experience in journalism – and, indeed, most will not be journalists for all that long.

The new journalism fraternity has framed the central journalism mission as involving how to get rid of Donald Trump. The leap of faith here is that we already know the story of Donald Trump and don't have to work to find it out – who he is, what he really wants, what he really means. And perhaps all we need to know is that Trump is Trump. He is worse than Nixon in the *Post*'s view. He is an idiot and a buffoon in the *Times*' view. Both papers have aligned themselves with forces (excuse me, sources) in the bureaucracy that want him gone and who are dishing up the leaks to prove his treachery and stupidity. It's certainly possible – likely, even – that Trump represents nothing more than one of the great political bacchanals in history, an orgy of the preposterous and absurd. And it often seems his reign will be a short one. But if Trump turns out to be even, say, 30 per cent right in his shoot-from-the-hip approach to the nation's ills – if GDP growth exceeds three per cent, if unemployment falls below five per cent, if fewer American soldiers die under Trump than under Obama – then Baker's and the *Journal*'s break with journalistic orthodoxy and long-shot bet on giving Trump a chance will be the journalism success story. If... GQ

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STYLING BY **Grace Gilfeather**

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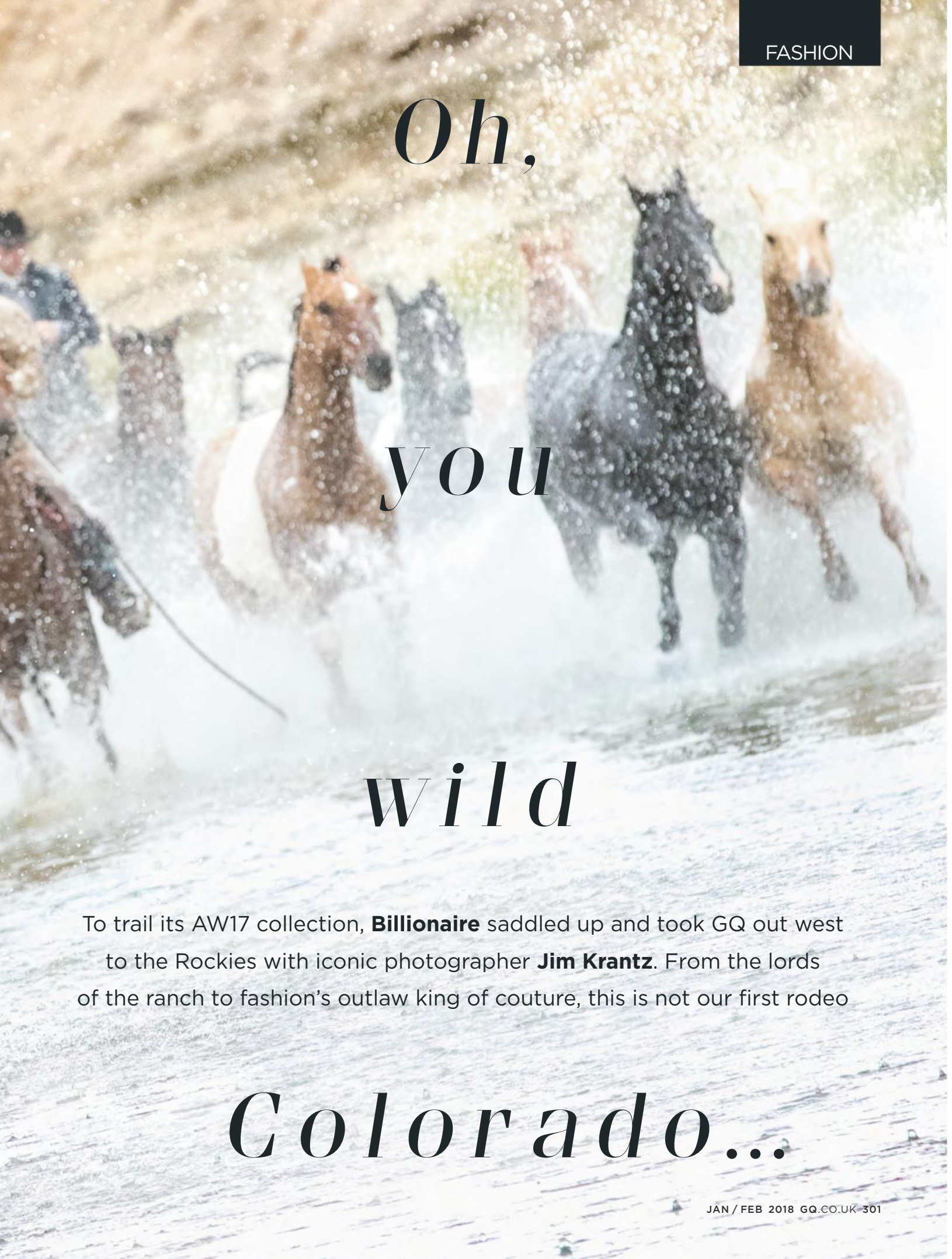

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1. Morris Richardson is a British lifestyle watch brand inspired by fashionable yet timeless style. The refined Howard 40mm classic watch incorporates a 316L marine grade stainless steel case, Swiss Quartz movement, sapphire crystal glass and an interchangeable Herringbone, genuine Harris tweed strap. Visit www.morrisrichardson.com **2.** Known as the fibre of kings, Cashmere dates back to the Old Testament as one of the rarest natural fibres in the world. Cashmere is known for its extreme softness, warmth and luxurious quality. **TaylordBlu** has modernised the men's cashmere scarf with its attention to detail, meticulous aesthetics and craftsmanship. The new standard is here... Welcome to Taylordblu. **3. Baxter&Baxter** offer handcrafted accessories for the modern gentleman with an unrivalled dedication to quality and artisanal excellence. Shop handmade bracelets, neckties, pocket squares, scarves and lapel pins. Use promo code 'GQ2017' for 10% off your order (expires 28/02/18). Shop online at baxter-baxter.com **4. Southern Field Industries** is situated amid hills in Japan's Saitama region. Manabu and Keiko Okada design and create bags and accessories that are functional, well crafted and timeless design. Every item is put together with the utmost care, taking time to give generous attention to minute detailing. **5.** This Gothenburg based brand **TALLIE** are redefining handkerchiefs. Each TALLIE is handmade using only the finest quality fabrics with curved edges to create the round shape of the Pocket Circle. Take a look at their limited collection at www.tallie.se **6.** Portuguese master shoemakers since 1942, **Carlos Santos** is internationally renowned for producing extremely elegant shoes, which range from classic models to casual and sporty ones. The luxury brand draws inspiration from the contemporary man's lifestyle, one who is fashion aware, who pays attention to details and seeks exclusiveness. **7. Zane Barläs.** A modern take on classic elegance, this glorious 3-piece navy suit is tailored to take over the boardroom and beyond. From Toronto, with love. **8. Denim.lab** is a quality inspired Dutch denim brand for both men and kids. The collection is a season-less selection of exclusive high-quality Japanese selvage fabrics and a modern take on fits and construction. Currently on offer are jeans, jackets and shirts. For 2017 Denim.lab added limited edition Japanese selvage shirts, sourced from Okayama-Japan. **9. Rocco Malatesta** is perfect for anyone who doesn't take things too seriously and loves to have fun, just like the designer. Rocco Malatesta is an illustrator and father and designs all the graphics and clothing himself. Take a look at their website for the full collection www.malatestastore.com of handmade goods, apparel and limited edition art prints. **10. Skyrta** is an Icelandic shirting brand for discerning men around the world. The limited edition Bujon shirt will form the foundation for countless combinations for your winter looks. Made from cotton flannel and brushed by hand, tailored by craftmen for a timeless shirt. Visit www.skyrtaoficeland.com **11. Autobahnlife Jewelry** creates handmade quality pieces. Pictured is their bold black python leather bracelet featuring gunmetal skulls and certified sapphire gemstone eyes. A variety of colours and styles are available online. Visit www.autobahnlife.com **12.** The **Rutherford Gentlemen** BYOB "Build Your Own Box" of high-quality ethically sourced Supima cotton. All the socks in the custom boxes are designed in Canada and made in Lima, Peru. With your comfort in mind, extra nylon is added to keep a tight form fitting sock. Use Code 15GENT to enjoy 15% off your purchase (until stocks last). Shop the collection www.rutherfordgent.com

13

THE SNAKE CHARMER £30
BOW TIE T-SHIRT
BOWTEES
WWW.BOWTEES.COM
INSTAGRAM: @BOWTEES

14

KHAKI AVIATION X-WIND DAY DATE AUTO CHRONO
REF. H77755133
HAMILTON
WWW.HAMILTONWATCH.COM

15

ABE T-SHIRT
INKOSI CLOTHING CO.
WWW.INKOSICLOTHINGCO.COM

16

RICHARD MILLE RM011 FELIPE MASSA
18CT WHITE GOLD AND NTPT 50 PIECE
LIMITED EDITION £150,000
WWW.CHESHIREWATCHCOMPANY.CO.UK

BLACK PORCELAIN GOLD LUSTRE EARRINGS €44
FREAKYFOXX
WWW.FREAKYFOXX.COM
IG: FREAKY.FOXX

17

18

MELANIE STONES
WWW.MELANIE-STONES.COM

19

CLOUD BEANIE
ORUS CO.
WWW.ORUSCLOTHING.COM
ASOS MARKETPLACE: @ORUSCO.
INSTAGRAM: @ORUS_CLOTHING

20

NPS GLADSTONE DERBY BOOT IN ACORN £235
NPS SHOES
WWW.NPS-SHOES.COM

21

DAMIAN SUIT $2,495.00
RALPH BEHK
INSTAGRAM: @RALPH_BEHK
WWW.RALPHBEHK.COM

22

RARE ADIDAS "VIRGINIA SQUIRES" TRACK JACKET £39.99
VERY RARE STORE
WWW.VERYRARE.STORE
INSTAGRAM:@VERYRARESTORE

23

ZANE BACKPACK IN PETALE BLUE PYTHON LEATHER $1,220
AMMOMENT
WWW.AMMOMENTBRAND.COM
INSTAGRAM: @AMMOMENTWORLD

24

CARDAMON WALLET II
$79 USD
WWW.BYCARDAMON.COM
@BYCARDAMON

25

LEATHER CELLPHONE SLINGBAG $140
BEDFORD 11TH
WWW.BEDFORD11TH.COM
INSTAGRAM: @BEDFORD11TH

26

TATLIM HOODED SWEATSHIRT £80
TATLIM OFFICIAL
WWW.TATLIMOFFICIAL.COM
INSTAGRAM: @TATLIMOFFICIAL

13. Bowtees are on a high-fashion mission of creating a new bow tie generation. Stemming from a life-long adoration of distinctively dapper bow ties, but with a frustration of always having to be in a sartorial shirt...the idea of combining casual t-shirts with bow tie detail was born. Laid-back or dressed-up, wear it your way. **14.** Geared toward the skyward bound, working with leading air squadrons and world famous pilots, **Hamilton**'s Khaki Aviation line is renowned for providing classic aviator styling and functions specific to pilots' needs. The Khaki X-Wind Automatic is the world's first drift-angle calculator in a watch, enabling pilots to accurately calculate and record crosswinds. For those needing to navigate their way through life on the ground, this Hamilton timepiece is also the perfect co-pilot. The stylish, rugged look of this innovative Chronograph is sure to turn heads, while its accuracy and function ensure a smooth flight. **15. Inkosi Clothing Co.** Revolutionizing Modern Luxury Fashion. The American luxury fashion house created by Clinton Inkosi has quickly become one of the world's most prominent custom clothing and apparel online stores. At Inkosi, luxury is life and luxury is for everyone. That is why their premium garments are at a lower price point than many traditional luxury brands. **16. The Cheshire Watch Company** boutique is located in the heart of the picturesque village of Wilmslow, Cheshire. Famous pre owned timepiece stock includes Rolex, Officine Panerai, Patek Philippe, Richard Mille and many more. Their expert buying team ensure the latest and most desirable stock in the world at the most competitive prices. Visit www.cheshirewatchcompany.co.uk or call 01625 403030 for more information. **17. FreakyFoxx** creates minimalist and conceptual jewellery made from porcelain. Their jewellery inspired by raw materials and forms. All pieces are carefully handcrafted and applied with gold or platinum lustre which gives a perfect look for their creations. They are creating wearable art which is beautiful with its simplicity but not simple. You can look to their jewellery from different angles and each time to find something you didn't see before. **18. Melanie Stones** is a celebration of nature and beauty in the form of a jewellery collection designed and handmade in Montreal. The founder, Melanie, reoriented her career from finance to her life's true calling: beauty. Her passion for semi-precious stones and pearls translates into classy and fashionable jewels. A Melanie Stones jewel provides a refined style to the world's most discerning men. Discover the full collection at www.melanie-stones.com **19. Orus Co.** Clothing and accessories brand bringing you the finest quality at a fair price. ORUS also looks to create a connection between everyone who wears their garments. #jointheglobalmovement Get 15% off with code "GQ15" at www.orusclothing.com and Asos Marketplace @OrusCo. (expires 31/05/2018). **20.** British footwear is amongst the best quality in the world, which is why **NPS footwear** will always be hand-made from start to finish in their Northamptonshire factory. Visit www.nps-shoes.com **21. Ralph Behk** is a luxury menswear brand based in NYC, specializing in fine hand tailored suitings. Architecturally inspired, the brand seamlessly blends bold and classic silhouettes to create sophisticated yet edgy attire. Visit ralphbehk.com to learn more about the brand redefining American tailored luxury. **22. Very Rare** is an e-commerce store that specialises in rare, one-off vintage designer clothing and high-end fashion brands. The London based store supplies brands such as Champion, Patagonia, Hilfiger, Stone Island and many more. All clothing is sourced from around the globe bringing you the most unique clothing out there. Take a look at www.veryrare.store or contact info@veryrare.store **23.** Designed with the combination of luxury aesthetic and exotic sensuality, **Ammoment** creates masterpiece for anyone who is looking for a bold statement. Inspired from architectural structure, the Zane Backpack's iconic lid uses only the best part of python leather made in Italy. Zane was first launched exclusively at Pitti Uomo in Florence and TRANOÏ Show in Paris. Visit www.ammomentbrand.com or email info@ammomentbrand.com **24. Cardamon.** The simplest interpretation of a minimalist billfold possible. The Cardamon Wallet aims to be the perfection of the traditional wallet. The essential functionality has been retained, but all other aspects of this design represent a new approach. The Cardamon Wallet II has been specifically designed to hold the British pound and Euros, whereas the Cardamon Wallet I is for smaller bills such as the American and Canadian dollar. **25. Bedford 11th** offers a modern interpretation of well-crafted bags and timeless pieces. From modern briefcases to messenger bags to streamlined weekends, they present a modern man in motion – work, travel, electronics and play. **26. Tatlım Official** is a London based brand that states the mixture of modern day contemporary culture by placing a luxury spin on casual wear. Minimalistic, yet statement worthy, Tatlim tends to focus on a monochrome palette when producing their collections.

TO ADVERTISE CALL 020 7499 9080 X3705

TO ADVERTISE CALL 020 7499 9080 X3705

The Style File... Continued

27

SHIELD ONYX BRACELET WITH 18K GOLD
MARCOS DE ANDRADE
WWW.MARCOSDEANDRADE.COM

28

ARTISAN / BESPOKE HATS €290
NOMADE MODERNE
WWW.NOMADE-MODERNE.COM

29

CONTRACTOR DENIM JACKET
OLD-HABITS
WWW.OLD-HABITS.COM.AU

30

BLOOM HOODIE
FORGOTTEN YOUTH
WWW.FORGOTTENYOUTHSUPPLY.COM
IG: FORGOTTENYOUTHSUPPLY

32 CAMPFIRE FLEECE
THE HATCHFLY COMPANY
WWW.HATCHFLY.CO

AVENUE 33 APPAREL
WWW.AVE33APPAREL.COM
IG: @AVENUE33NECKWEAR

33

34

STUPID FAME SWEATSHIRT
£39.99
INSTAGRAM: @SMOKEANDPRAYERS
WWW.SMOKEANDPRAYERS.COM

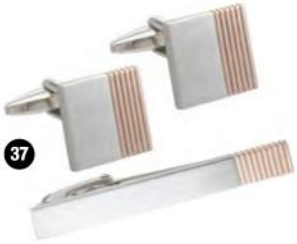
31

FĂRĂZECE COPPER £130
OPTIMEF
WWW.OPTIMEF.COM

35

AZTEC €12
DEPIEDFERME
WWW.DEPIEDFERME.COM
IG: @DEPIEDFERME

36 CS 6MM BRASS SIGNET RING $100
MUJO
WWW.MUJONYC.COM
INSTAGRAM: @MUJONYC



37

INSIDE TRACK CUFFLINKS AND TIE SLIDE £32 EACH
ELIZABETH PARKER
WWW.ELIZABETHPARKER.CO.UK
IG: @ELIZABETHPARKERACCESSORIES

38

THE ROVER
HITCH & TIMBER
WWW.HITCHANDTIMBER.COM

39 THE OAK BARK LEATHER BELT £89
VICTORY LEATHERCRAFT
WWW.VICTORYLEATHERCRAFT.COM
INSTAGRAM: @VICTORYLEATHERCRAFT

40 'THINK' £29
CHARM MY SNAKE
WWW.CHARMMYSNAKE.COM
INSTAGRAM: @CHARMMYSNAKE

27. Marcos de Andrade. Handcrafted statement accessories built exclusively for the successful, charismatic worldly gentleman. MDA uses only the highest quality materials and craftsmanship. All jewellery is made from solid 92.5% Silver, with some pieces having 18kt. Gold or Titanium Black plating. All Crystals are certified Swarovski. All leather goods are made from raw materials. To find out more visit www.marcosdeandrade.com **28. Nomade Moderne** create hats that hold true to their heritage, yet reflect the spirit of the modern nomade. Each hat is made using the highest quality rabbit felt paired with unique vintage ribbons from around the world. Let Nomade Moderne create your very own masterpiece. Visit www.nomade-moderne.com **29. Old-Habits** is the quintessential urban luxury fashion brand. Dovetailing urban street wear and luxury fashion, the result is a brand that challenges contemporary fashion. Founded in Australia. **30. Forgotten Youth** is a lifestyle brand curating a community influenced by surfing, skateboarding, art and music. Conveying the importance of self expression, exploration, awareness and use of imagination. A generation Lost in Thought. Once they are gone, the garments released for that specific exclusive collection will never be printed again – first come first serve. **31.** Originally launched in 1979, **Optimef** was relaunched in 2016, adding a contemporary touch to the 70s and 80s aesthetics of the original watch brand. Fărăzece is their first model, featuring a minimalist design, but with a twist. Read more on www.optimef.com **32.** With their inspiration rooted in the great outdoors, **The Hatchfly Company** strive to create clothing for your adventures – whether you are visiting friends in a new city or rafting an unnamed river. The New York brand designs clothing made from quality fabrics, whilst developing close, personal relationships with their manufacturers to produce the highest quality products. Each garment is cut-and-sewn in NYC, continuing the tradition of American manufacturing with each stitch. **33. Avenue 33** is an American Made accessories label with the mission of inspiring the modern man to connect with his inner dreamer, to find a compelling narrative worth pursuing at all cost. They feel that their handcrafted accessories offer the ability to connect with that inner dreamer and allow for some bold self-expression. Dapper after all, is in the details. **34. Smoke + Prayers** are looking to spread a message through their clothing. Their aim is to say what is on everybody's mind and destroy the hype. They don't want to be a sell out brand, they intend to start a movement. Take a look at www.smokeandprayers.com **35. Depiedferme** is a French sock brand founded in 2015, which embraces a fun a colourful concept. All products are designed in France and produced in Turkey. Amongst the wide range of inspiring and cool logos on offer you will certainly find a pair that matches your individual style. Contact romain@depiedferme.com or visit www.depiedferme.com for more information. **36.** Guided by clean, balanced design and inspired by the industrial, worn character of NYC, **MUJO** is a Brooklyn-based contemporary jewellery brand. They handcraft essential pieces that are designed to wear handsomely with age and last a lifetime. www.mujonyc.com **37.** Add a contemporary accent to your formal wear with these architecturally inspired cufflinks and matching tie slide from **Elizabeth Parker.** Mirroring the minimalistic design of modern construction, the brushed metal finish is totally reinvigorated by the seamless addition of a ribbed rose gold panel. Also available in gun metal. **38. Hitch & Timber.** The Rover keeps your gear organized and easily accessible. Stay prepared with your pen, pocket knife, & pocket notebook in one tidy package. Visit www.hitchandtimber.com **39. Victory Leathercraft** hand craft their luxury leather goods in West Sussex, England using only the highest quality materials. Their Oak Bark Belts are made from oak-bark tanned full-grain English bridle leather together with solid brass or stainless steel buckles. Available in three colours to co-ordinate with jeans or more formal wear. www.victoryleathercraft.com **40.** You're one-of-a-kind – they are too. Doing their own thinking, **Charm My Snake** have designed a unique series of men's underwear just for you. Since underwear is an intimate necessity, why not make it the best piece of clothing you wear? You provide the body, they provide the first-class fit, workmanship and materials. At Charm My Snake they salute love in all its many expressions.

41

THE STRETCH TUXEDO £470
THE STRETCH SUIT
WWW.THESTRETCHSUIT.COM
INSTAGRAM: @THESTRETCHSUIT

42

HOODIE €125
GODFIDENCE STUDIO
COLLECTION HERITAGE
GODFIDENCESTUDIO.COM

43

SOF CASE IN BLUE DENIM
SOFRANCISCO
PRICE: $69
WWW.SOFRANCISCO.COM

44

BREAKING WAVE $175
STEDBEE ORIGINAL
SEASHELL BOW TIE
SUPPORT@STEDBEE.COM
WWW.STEDBEE.COM

45

MESH CHRONO £59
GILCHRIST WATCH CO.
WWW.GWCWATCHES.COM
QUOTE GQJAN FOR 10% OFF

46

CALVINO MOD NECKTIE £95
DWIMMER
WWW.DWIMMER.COM
INFO@DWIMMER.COM

47

TIMELESS TORTOISE SUNGLASSES
$79.99
SCORPIO LAMONTE
WWW.SCORPIOLAMONTE.COM

48

GOLD SKULL BLACK T-SHIRT £25
ALISTAIR GREY
WWW.ALISTAIRGREY.COM
IG: @ALISTAIRGREY

49

ENGLISH BRIDLE LEATHER BOX BAG
£400
STEPH RUBBO SADDLERY
WWW.STEPHRUBBOSADDLERY.CO.UK

50

PERSONALISED STATEMENT BANGLE
ATOYLESTONE
WWW.ATOYLESTONE.COM
@ATOYLESTONE

53

WEGNER SOLOSOCKS £34
URU DESIGN
WWW.URU.DK
INSTAGRAM: @URU.DESIGN

51

MEN'S BRACELET WITH RAW EMERALD €35
WWW.DESERTDUSTMEN.COM

52

JACKSON WAYNE DUFFLE BAG $599
JACKSON WAYNE
WWW.JACKSONWAYNE.COM
INSTAGRAM: @JACKSONWAYNELEATHER

41. The Stretch Suit. The world's first full Stretch Tuxedo. Offering ultimate freedom of movement, comfort and style, worn by world class athletes, stunt men and martial artists. This tuxedo is the perfect weapon for a man with a motive. GQ readers receive 20% discount with code GQ20 expires 31/1/2018. **42.** Convinced that the luxury is about the quality of product, **Godfidence Studio** are always working with the same spirit. Where the emphasis is always, just as well on the proportions, the cuts or the shape, as well as on the nobility of the materials and the originality of their product. **43. SOFRANCISCO**'s founder and leather engineer transmits French craftsmanship for the conscious fashion consumer. The San Francisco-based company is the go-to leather phone case and is all about stunning full-grain leather accessories with utmost French Savoir-Faire. **44.** Handcrafted and embodying quality, **Stedbee** seashell bow ties are all the rage! Founder and designer, Shelby Stedman offers a trend-setting approach on the classic bow tie. Although the bow ties can't replicate a beach day, they'll keep you looking sharp while giving you a piece of paradise in the meantime. **45. Gilchrist Watch Co** is home to an unrivalled collection of unique affordable timepieces. The strikingly minimal Mesh Chrono from Megir boasts a steel mesh band, precision stopwatch and calendar window at 4 o' clock. 3 colour options, £59. Shop Minimal at www.gwcwatches.com and quote GQJAN for 10% off, expires (28/02/18). **46. Dwimmer** neckwear features a unique, patent pending method of tying. Each tie is handcrafted in California with precise attention to detail. The high-quality materials are carefully sourced from around the world. Always the correct length; always a conversation starter. **47.** Do you have difficulty finding sunglasses and stylish clear-lense glasses in a wider frame or a more bold look? If so, Luxury Fashion Eyewear by **Scorpio Lamonte** is the brand for you. Their desire is to offer extra large eyewear for the fashion forward. Get in touch via email at orders@scorpiolamonte.com **48. Alistair Grey** focus on providing products with substance. They create fashion that highlights personality through expressive art and love being creative. All their garments are designed and manufactured in the UK. **49. Steph Rubbo Saddlery** specialises in making beautiful and durable bespoke leather goods, using traditional saddlery tools and techniques. From cutting to finishing, each of their pieces is unique and handmade all created with the highest quality craftsmanship. Resulting in a truly personal product that gains character over time. **50.** At **Atolyestone**, they strive to create uniquely designed jewellery and accessories that sets them apart from the norm. The Statement Silver Bangle gives the power of creativity into the hands of the customer. You are able to choose the colour of your plating and from an unlimited number of letters and numbers to ensure your bracelet is truly one of a kind. **51.** Raw Emerald, Ethiopian Artisan pure silver spacers, premium quality seed beads manufactured in Japan – all carefully selected and put together to bring you this beautiful piece. Stand out of the crowd with slim trendy bracelets by **Desert Dust Men.** More items at www.desertdustmen.com **52.** Inspired by old school American craftsmanship, **Jackson Wayne** makes heirloom quality leather bags and wallets using the finest vegetable tanned full grain leather. Their clean, heritage design aesthetic is both rugged and refined. Handcrafted in the USA and sold directly to customers without typical retail markup. Take a look at JacksonWayne.com or contact info@jacksonwayne.com **53. Solosocks™** come in a pack of 7 single socks designed to mix and match. A unique solution to missing socks. High-end designer socks made of organic cotton. No more pairing or wasting socks. Creation of the Copenhagen-based company URU Design. Visit www.uru.dk No Pairs – Just Solos.

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TO ADVERTISE CALL 020 7499 9080 X3705

The Style File... Continued

KHAN SUIT $1195
URBAN NOMADDS
WWW.URBANNOMADDS.COM

JACKY BLACK
WWW.JACKYBLACK.COM

THE PICCARD MESSENGER BAG £150
MORGAN.M
WWW.MORGANM.CO.UK
INSTAGRAM: @MORGANMLTD

THE OVERSIZED PANEL HOODIE
KHZARI
WWW.KHZARI.COM

ALL-COMMUTE OVERCOAT €330
WWW.SENSCOMMON.COM
INSTAGRAM: @SENSCOMMON

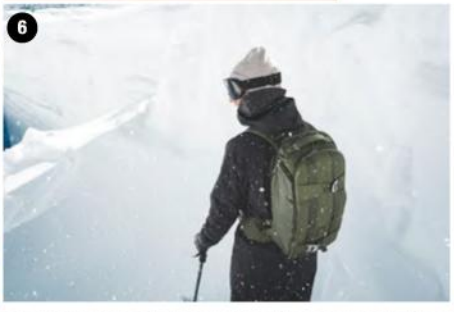
REPURPOSED MILITARY 5-PANEL HAT $44.99
ROCKY CLARK 'SUSTAINABLE STREETWEAR.
MADE IN THE USA.'
WWW.ROCKYCLARKCLOTHING.COM

JOHN HOWARD SWIMTRUNKS
WWW.JOHNHOWARDCR.COM
INSTAGRAM: @JOHN.HOWARDCR

ODRIN
WWW.ODRIN.COM
INSTAGRAM: @ODRIN_MENSWEAR

54. Urban Nomadds, is a contemporary fashion brand, launched in 2017. The brand offers ready-to-wear designs to suit the multi-faceted non-gender lifestyle of a global metropolitan consumer. Urban Nomadds interprets traditional craftsmanship into wearable ready-to-wear with a fresh aesthetic. Take a look at their Instagram @urbannomadds **55. Jacky Black** is a special occasion accessories brand. Their signature products are chic handmade bow-ties. Created in Hollywood, the brand tells us the story of Dreamers that would never stop pursuing their dreams. Join the Club! **56.** As purveyors of practical, classically-designed bags made from real cowhide leather, **Morgan.M** have created a range of products that cover all requirements. Thanks to its classic silhouette, ample space for personal belongings and its practical internal design, The Piccard is symbolic of that principle. See more at www.morganm.co.uk **57.** The Oversized Panel Hoodie – **Khzari**'s signature fit and design made with an oversized winter feel. This pullover is an essential for the colder months and with the zip details, makes it a signature go to piece. **58.** The **senscommon** all-commute overcoat is lightweight, waterproof and breathable, fitting all forms of urban commuting like cycling. Everything is enhanced by the pure minimalist design, no detail is superfluous. Motion-accomodating construction and superior quality – uncommon utility fitting urban life. **59.** For their latest project, **Rocky Clark Clothing** decided to give new life to vintage, authentic US Military deadstock. The jackets used to craft these hats were either not up to specifications or they went unused, so instead of letting them sit in a warehouse, they gave them new purpose in hat form. It has been said before; the finest camouflage patterns come from the US Military, which is why they are making the most of up-cycling them. Take a look at their Instagram @rocky_clark_clothing or contact them on rocco@rockyclarkclothing.com **60.** Swimtrunks by **John Howard** Premium clothing designed and handcrafted in Costa Rica. Each JH's piece is inspired by key elements of Costa Rica, such as its culture, flora, fauna, and microclimates. Look sharp. Live smart. With JH's ethical collections. Visit www.johnhowardcr.com **61. Odrin** offers luxury grade wardrobe staples that are responsibly made and accessibly priced. Their items are made in Africa using luxurious fabrics from European and Japanese mills. Use GQ412 for a 10% coupon on any product at ww.odrin.com (expires 08/02/2018).

New Year, New Gear... Kitted Out!



1. Lift Hook is a beautiful multi-purpose bike hook. It attaches to any wall and keeps your bike neatly stowed, while being versatile to hang other items like a ladder or jacket. A wooden dowel extension holds a helmet or other accessories. £49. Visit **www.lifthook.co**

2. Joiner Bicycle Co. Handcrafted from titanium and carbon fibre, the Joiner Shibuya single speed and fixed gear models are custom built by their artisan welders from the highest quality Gr9 titanium tubing. With design cues inspired by urban culture, each Shibuya is a one of a kind, race ready masterpiece. For more information visit **www.JoinerBikes.com** or email **info@joinerbikes.com**

3. Maglianera. Cycling socks and apparel designed and Made in Italy. Inspired by la Maglia Nera, the honour bestowed upon the last rider to cross the finish line in the Giro d'Italia. Maglianera is for those that train with passion, caring more about the sport itself than prizes. Hypoallergenic and made with LYCRA® to give the best compression and keep the feet dry. For all addicted to urban cycling and the great outdoors. Visit **www.maglianeracycling.com**

4. Wolf and Grizzly designs tools for the wayfarer, strong enough for the woods, sophisticated enough for the city. Seen here is the M1 Grill kit, made from 304 Stainless Steel throughout for wilderness strength with an elegant aesthetic. The rollable surface means you can collapse it down to the width of your water bottle and the grill height can be adjusted to accommodate any fire you can light up. Get inspired at **www.wolfandgrizzly.com**

5. Ahooga (e)Bike is the world first electric-yet-hyper lightweight, folding-yet-comfortable bike. Folding, thus intermodal. For better cities, better lives. Unlike most e-bikes, when the assistance is off, the Ahooga remains a lightweight hybrid bicycle, easy and fun to ride. It has already been delivered to hundreds of happy riders throughout Europe. Designed with love in Belgium. Made in Europe. Visit **ahooga.bike**

6. Douchebags' new comfortable and durable backpack feels as much at home in the streets as it does in the mountains. With ski straps and a removable waist strap, take it anywhere and everywhere in comfort and style. The Explorer, only €249. Find out more at **www.douchebags.com** or **@douchebags**

Raise Your Glass... Drink To That!

1. The first Asian-made, handcrafted gin of its kind. **COLOMBO NO. 7** is made to an original 70 year old recipe, distilled in traditional copper pot stills using seven spices and botanicals including curry leaves, cinnamon and ginger to create a beautifully balanced and subtly spiced gin. A distinctly Sri Lankan take on a London Dry Gin, with excellent reviews. Visit **www.colombosevengin.com**

2. III Big Dogs Vodka is a Premium Vodka for the driven. It represents the ambitious and successful individual who will accept nothing but perfection in all areas of their life, the vodka they drink being no exception. It has a purity and clarity that can only be produced from 7 times distillation, making it a true pleasure to the connoisseur. Enjoy neat, mixed and always chilled for the ultimate experience. Visit **www.3bdvodka.com** or their social media **@3bdvodka**

3. Barra Gin showcases a perfect balance of floral and herbal on the nose, leading to juniper, citrus and dulcet carrageen rolling across the tongue like mighty Atlantic surf breaking on Barra shores. Refreshing and clean, with a long, gratifyingly warm spice finish that opens out like the vast vista surrounding their beautifully remote home. Buy Barra gin for only £37.00 (RRP) at **www.isleofbarradistillers.com**

4. Born in the Heart of Greenwich, **Mean Gin**'s creator set out to produce the perfect modern London Dry Gin, with 10 botanicals inspired by the Royal Borough's maritime history. To find out more, or to purchase this double IWSC Silver Medal Winner, visit **www.meangin.com**

5. For a very interesting and palatable gin, try **John Tony's Gin** which limits the distinct dry and bitter taste most gins have. The botanicals, including liquorice root, provide a subtle sweet aftertaste, making it a tasteful drink even for those who are usually not really into gin. Visit **www.johntonysgin.com**

6. The Crosby Elixir Co. is a true labour of love. Each batch is made entirely by hand in ultra-small quantities by a couple on a mission to challenge the norm and change perceptions. Cold compounded, this is a gin the likes of which you've never tasted. Bold, fragrant, fresh and oh so rare. £38 per bottle at **www.crosbyelixir.co.uk** or email **bottomsup@crosbyelixir.co.uk**

7. Produced by the independent, Scottish-owned **Isle of Arran Distillery**, the Robert Burns Single Malt is the only whisky officially endorsed by the World Burns Federation. It is handcrafted in small batches to ensure maximum quality. Light, fruity citrus notes make this the ideal toast for your Burns supper and it is equally delicious in a refreshing cocktail! An exclusive Single Malt from one of Scotland's most forward-thinking distilleries. Available from specialist whisky shops, from **ww.arranwhisky.com** or call **01770 830264** to order.

8. Aelder Wild Elderberry Elixir is an award winning new liqueur handcrafted in Scotland. Wild Scottish elderberries and botanicals are infused before being blended with young Scottish whisky. The end result is a rich, complex and dark drink with a beautifully warming finish. Can be enjoyed neat as a great alternative to port or splashed in a glass of fizz for an indulgent aperitif. Fruit, subtle spice with a gentle warming glow – what could be better this winter season! Available at **www.thewhiskyexchange.com** or for a full list of stockists visit **www.aelderelixir.com**

9. The UK's Strongest Coffee, **Sons of Amazon** is over 200% stronger than a cup of normal jar coffee! It's specifically roasted for adrenalin and coffee junkies, not for the faint hearted! Roasted using the world's premium and best coffee beans, which are ethically sourced and 100% Rainforest Alliance certified, which means our coffee farmers are paid a fair price and the land is carefully managed. WARNING! – Don't drink if you need sleep! Strong and fair. Visit **www.sonsofamazon.com**

10. Presenting a London Dry Gin from **Family Of Hounds** – 100% distilled and bottled with pride in Italy. With 9 of the finest botanicals from Italy and the Orient, why don't you start **#drinkingwiththepack** and enjoy a night in with friends? Visit **www.familyofhounds.com** or their social media **@familyofhounds**

11. Merchant's Heart is a range of seven premium spirit enhancers, made with Bikan Yuso – a sense of beauty and playful imagination. Merchant's Heart Light Tonic Water is excellent paired with most gin and vodka. For more information visit **www.merchantsheart.com** and follow on Instagram **@merchantsheart**

12. Franklin & Sons Brewed Ginger Beer with Malted Barley and a squeeze of Lemon. This award-winning ginger beer has been brewed with malted barley to ensure the deepest flavour and aroma of ginger is delivered. The addition of a squeeze of lemon introduces subtle citrus notes, leaving a refreshing finish. Serve this vibrant mixer with your favourite premium rum over large cubed ice to enhance the rich and complex flavours of your spirit. Available at Selfridges, Harrods and Sainsburys **www.franklinandsons.co.uk @franklinandsons**

13. Misty Isle Gin – Isle of Skye Distillers From their dramatic landscape comes this small batch hand crafted gin, infused with the 'spirit of Skye'. Their unique recipe uses 11 botanicals, one is top secret! All of their gin is made in Portree. Provenance is everything! **www.isleofskyedistillers.com**

14. Slingsby Yorkshire Rhubarb Gin £39.99. Beginning life as one of their development gins, they have taken their London Dry Gin and masterfully infused it with the finest Yorkshire rhubarb, sourced from the famous 'Rhubarb Triangle'. An initial sweetness of rhubarb and raspberry is followed by the bitter tang of the pink grapefruit citrus base. A tart rhubarb finish rounds off the drink, leaving an unforgettable flavour on the palate. Enjoy with premium elderflower tonic water, on ice with a fresh raspberry to finish. Visit **www.wslingsby.co.uk/shop** or email **info@spiritofharrogate.co.uk**

15. The best awarded Colombian rum, **LA HECHICERA**, Spanish for 'enchantress', has been seducing rum lovers and whisky experts with its perfectly dry and mellow taste. Produced by the only family owned rum company in Colombia, this jewel of a spirit holds true to a simple promise; from barrel to bottle, and nothing added in between. Find them at Marks & Spencer, Harrods, Fortnum & Mason and at **www.lahechicera.co**

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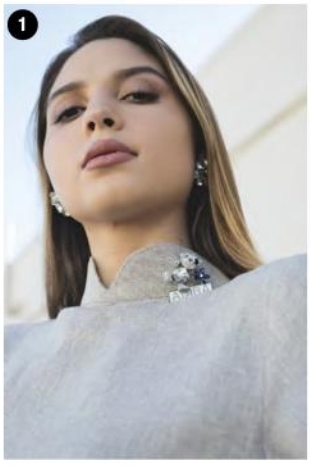
The Last Minute Gift Guide... For Her!



1. Founder and Designer Sylvana Sidra presents, **ADIBA**, an exclusive line that embodies an artful balance of sophistication, simplicity and functionality. Each piece is passionately orchestrated together to celebrate a woman's astounding beauty. All Purchases are Hand Gift Wrapped. To see their Special Christmas pricing, Visit **www.adibadesigns.com** and follow **@adibadesigns** (IG). Photo credit: Luigi Costa, Model: Ashlyn StClaire.

2. NAKEDSWIM makes swimsuits for real women's bodies; no matter her shape or size she's bound to fall in love with one of their many fully seamless designs. Can't pick a style? A NAKEDSWIM giftcard is the perfect stocking filler! Visit **www.nakedswim.us** and use 'GQ15' at checkout for an exclusive discount until stocks last.

3. Maha Loka believes that the practice of yoga and eco-sustainability go hand-in-hand, that's why they created this great looking and 100% functional waterproof bag for your yoga and other personal accessories while hitting the studio. Your yoga mat or a even a blanket can fit on the front of the bag. Let this bag take you from the gym to the office to a night out. Visit **www.themahaloka.com**

4. Travel Wags beautifully designed, yet incredibly functional dog walking and weekend bags. The walking bag comes with a collapsible bowl, flat water bottle, poop bags and pockets for keys, mobile phone and other essentials. The weekend bag has everything for a weekend away with your dog. Use GQ15 to get 15% off your order. Visit their website **www.travelwags.com** and follow them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

5. Featured here are the lust worthy satin trousers by **GroundGround.** Designed and made in Southern Italy, the entire collection has a contemporary and unique taste that your other half will definitely fall in love with. Shop at **groundgroundcollection.com** and visit **@groundground_** (IG) to find out more.

6. Ying Cai. The New York designer embraced Eastern elegance with a modern twist. This season's trendy yet eye-catching accessories make thoughtful gifts for the holiday season, perfect for New Year and romantic dinner party. Crystal choker €189. Available at **www.yingcainewyork.com**

7. Say something special with the personalised pastille chain bracelet (from £49) by **Merci Maman.** The disc is hand-engraved with the name, dates or short message of your choice and delivered to you in a signature gift box. Handmade in London and available in sterling silver or 18K gold plated. Available at **www.mercimamanboutique.com**

8. Puppy Mama offer stylish gifts for the special women in your life who LOVE their dog. Shop for beautiful dog collars, leads, harnesses, carriers, beds, coats, bow ties, and bandannas as well as women's apparel. Take a look at the Puppy Mama online store at **shop.puppymama.com** or contact **woof@puppymama.com** using code GQ15OFF to enjoy 15% off your purchase (offer expires 31/1/18).

9. A hand wrapped book tied up with string, carefully curated from a wide range of popular genres that is tagged with intriguing clues alluding to the book inside. **Blind Date with a Book** – Don't judge a book by its cover. £7.99 from Waitrose or delivered worldwide from **www.blinddatewithabook.com**

10. These beautiful 3D-printed rings from the Heliodon Collection, by Brooklyn-based jewellery brand **Plaitly**, capture the sun angle at a location, day, and time chosen by you. Memorialise life's significant events with one of these sentimental, personalised pieces. Available in 18k gold and 14k rose gold. Order online at **www.plaitly.com** and follow on IG **@PLAITLY**

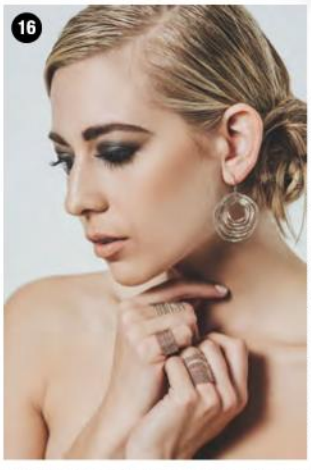
11. Simon Wright offers a complete bespoke service, making your jewellery in platinum and gold using the finest diamonds and gemstones. An appointment involves viewing stones, a short tour of the workshop, and a sit down design session all in his Clerkenwell studio workshop. By appointment only. Visit **www.sw-jewellery.com** email **enquiries@sw-jewellery.com** or take a look at Instagram **@sw_jewellery**

12. The Happiness Planner®. The perfect gift for the women in your life. Designed to help you create more happiness and fulfilment in life by embracing the power of positive thinking, mindfulness, gratitude, and self-development. The practices in the Happiness Planner will help you become your best self, adopt a positive outlook on life, practice gratitude, and reflect on your days, weeks, and months – mastering success and happiness, one day at a time. Visit **www.thehappinessplanner.co.uk**

13. Nádúrtha Free-ODORANT®: a luxe, natural deodorant crème stick. Also available in a white container. It's Unisex, Australian Made, effective and stylish. Lasting around 3 months it's the gift that keeps on giving. No need to nick your partner's – get 30% off second product plus FREE SHIPPING using code: GQ30 at **www.nadurtha.com.au** (expires 04/02/2018).

14. Ramona Lim Jewels' floral collection is defined by simplicity and elegance. Their fine Sterling Silver Jewellery is handmade and available at an affordable price. Featured here is a lovely pair of freshwater pearls earrings, a perfect gift for your love. Visit **www.ramonalim.com** or email **info@ramonalim.com**

15. Why get her a Christmas or Valentines present just the once, when you can send her one every month for just £20? **Vela Flowers** is a boutique florist delivering across the UK. Specialising in flower subscriptions, Vela picks and sends the season's best flowers each week, so you don't have to waste time choosing. Order in 30 seconds with free delivery and 25% off your first delivery when you use code GQ at checkout **www.velaflowers.co.uk**



16. SSpoil her this Christmas with intriguing and romantic jewellery pieces from the **del Coursy Collection**, South Africa. Find her the perfect del Coursy gift, crafted from Italian 9.25 Sterling Silver, that boasts unmatched quality and unique design. Follow **@delcoursy** and shop this style at **www.delcoursy.co.uk** and use coupon code 'GQ20' to get 20% off (expires 28/02/2018).

17. Andrea Barrail is a Paraguayan jewellery line inspired by the fusion of indigenous tradition and contemporary art. Each exquisite investment piece is handmade in Paraguay using 18k gold and natural gemstones. Shown here is the "Ambüe Caterpillar Ring" 18k White Gold and Diamond Topaz Sapphire. Visit **www.andreabarrail.com** and follow **@andreabarrail** (IG).

18. Recently selected as a Crystals from Swarovski® partner for her stunning creations, **Izabela Felinski** is a luxury hand-embroidery brand, representing a unique combination of crystal and colours expressed in a range of fashion jewellery you can wear from day to night. Explore five amazing collections and fall in love with their dazzling range of bracelets. Start your Crystals and Colours lifetime journey now and find your own way to shine at **www.izabelafelinski.com**

19. Latham & Neve – known for their stunning contemporary hand-made British jewellery since 1997. Featured is the unique Ripple Bangle in beaten silver and 18ct gold, £230.00. Ballroom bangles, everyday earrings, ravishing rings and much much more... Buy online/stockists/brochure, visit **www.lathamandneve.co.uk** or call **01580 753399**.

20. There's still time to get Christmas presents for your loved ones! Don't worry **Sade Best Jewellery** has your back. These Royal embellished earrings will make a beautiful gift this Christmas. Head to **www.sadebest.co.uk** enjoy free UK delivery and a 10% discount when you sign up to their newsletter.

21. Melbourne designer **Rahma Mohamed** works alongside skilled artisans in her native Ethiopia to construct trans-seasonal, ethically made pieces. The hand-crafted garments and homewares are a wearable, contemporary interpretation of traditional Ethiopian textiles. View their instagram **@Rahma_thelabel** or visit their website **www.rahmathelabel.com** to find out more.

22. Clara In Wonderland, designs by Clara Longobardo. Luxurious and timeless fashion Made In Italy. Each collection is handmade by Italian seamstresses and not mass produced because of their uniqueness. Coming Soon: Popup Shop Milan. Visit or follow on Instagram **@clarainwonderland** and FaceBook: **Clara In Wonderland**.

23. Lorde Beauty leads in luxurious clean beauty products and services that will leave you feeling renewed and refreshed. In addition to providing fabulous Omorovicza Facials at the Lorde Spa, the creator of Lorde, Rachel Williams' recommends African Botanics Marula Mineral Cleansing Mask to replenish all wintery complexions. Shop now at **www.lordebeauty.com** and follow **lorde.beauty** on instagram.

24. Lolam fashion brand proposes sleek cuts and boho glamour inspired looks for this winter. Combining futuristic fabrics and textures, with feminine vibes, to enable the modern day woman to feel powerful and in charge. Visit **www.lolam.com** to shop their affordable collections. Worldwide Shipping available. Instagram **@lolamofficial**

25. Jersey Virago is an American swimwear company based in Seattle. They offer a range of flattering swimsuit styles and creative coverups, their eye-catching designs are sure to make a statement. Visit **jerseyvirago.com** or follow on Instagram **@jerseyvirago**

26. Milarte collections are created by artist Miłosława Skoczek-Śliwińska, a graduate from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. A fascination with nature and symbolism is the inspiration behind her unique Jewellery and a hallmark of the artist's work. The idea behind the Rosette collection is to raise the buyer's awareness of their own self, who they are, where they came from, where they go. Visit **www.milarte.pl/en**

27. Open Me When is more than a gift, it is an experience. Each box contains unique, luxe items that are carefully curated and individually wrapped, finished off with special stories for each item and a personalised, handwritten note. Shop **www.OpenMeWhenBox.com** and follow **@openmewhenbox**

28. This is a great gift idea for any man or woman that appreciates quality ingredients in their skincare. **Skindew**'s all natural body oils use Vitamins A to E and omega 3 to leave skin fully moisturized. With luxurious oils handpicked from across the globe, you simply spray these carefully selected oils directly onto your body. Skindew also uses three exotic, sweet and earthy scents to help inspire positivity relaxation and well-being. Visit **www.skindewonline.com** or **@skindew** on Instagram.

29. YEBA is a women's contemporary accessory label specialising in 'executive' handbags and small leather goods for women. This unique concept where fashion meets functionality in the most elegant way, celebrates today's women's drive, confidence and ambition. They design modern and timeless essentials, high quality leather goods inspired by contemporary aesthetics, clear graphic lines and modern architecture. Visit **www.yeba-essentials.com** or email: **info@yeba-essentials.com**

30. Simply Whimsical. The perfect gift for the fashionable Foodie in your life the BLACK DAMASK Diva Apron $32. This haute Apron makes an unforgettable entrance whether serving cocktails at her next dinner party or trying out a new recipe on you... Simply stunning! Take at look at **www.simply-whimsical.com** or contact **order@simply-whimsical.com**

31. Keratia offers the ultimate replica diamond jewellery. Absolutely no one can see the difference! All settings are in 18 carat gold. From £380. Visit **www.keratia.com** or call **07974 260360**. 10% off with the GQJAN18 (expires 08/02/2018).

32. Olivia Rose Skincare. This refreshing vegan toner eases the appearance of puffy skin and provides glowing looking results. Organic aloe helps nourish the skin with moisture. Fall in love with the clean floral scent. Use code GQ2018 for 10% off your order (expires 08/02/2018). Visit **www.etsy.com/shop/theoliviaroseco**

33. Rose Berger, NYC based designer Rose creates jewellery that can simply be described as wearable art. To create each individual design, Rose spends time working with a variety of metal including gold, sterling silver and brass. The result is beautiful timeless jewellery with a unique edge. Visit **www.roseberger.nyc** to view the collection.

34. Inspired by the beauty of Mozambique and made in the U.S., **SARDEiRA** fine jewelry is a unique and elegant approach to empower, inspire and celebrate the people in your life. Pictured is the unisex 'Be Priceless' cuff bracelet in 18K Yellow Gold with blue leather. Image credit: Luis Santana. Visit **www.SARDEiRA.com** and follow **@sardeira** on Instagram.

35. Revossa fashion, a women's clothing store based out of Vancouver, Canada. Offering only the sleekest styles with guaranteed high quality. Bodysuits, faux furs, body contour dresses available at **www.revossafashion.com** or take a look at the Instagram **@revossafashion** Image styled by founder and stylist Siman Heer **@styledbysiman**

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The Last Minute Gift Guide... For Him!

1. Funky. Mismatched. Stylish. That's what you'd hear wearing **MrMiSockis.** A creative story about a sock that's lost its other half and goes on an adventure to find himself. Each mismatched pair comes with a comic book. Brilliant! Shop Volume 1 and 2 at **www.mrmisocki.com**

2. Bôhten Eyeglasses. A perfect holiday gift for him, the Jetter Ebony classic is a snazzy design crafted from reclaimed walnut wood and plant based acetate. The Temples are produced from rosewood with black acetate tips if frames need to be adjusted. Use code "NewYear25" for 25% off any style on **bohten.com** or **bohten.uk** (expires 28/02/18).

3. Mc Alson boxer short, €35 . Established in 1997, Mc Alson is a Belgian family owned brand that stands for quality, comfort and originality. This 100% cotton boxer short includes their signature soft cotton inner support which brilliantly combines the smartness of an American boxer with the comfort of briefs. Today they offer the widest range of designs and motives, for every gentleman to enjoy. Visit **www.mcalson.com** or email **info@mcalsonline.com**

5. Smuggling Duds – A unique and innovative underwear brand, Smuggling Duds is the brand of choice amongst world class DJ's and athletes! Each pair comes with an invaluable stash pocket – perfect for stash your valuables! Get 15% off at **www.SmugglingDuds.Com** with code GQ15, expires 31/03/2018.

4. Paul Rich offers timeless modern classic watches. Presented here is the Chrono Blue Silver, made from stainless steel and crafted with an interchangeable genuine leather watchband. See more at **eu.paul-rich.com**

6. Zac Posen, Lenihan in French Horn, £165. Introduced in 2002, Zac Posen is a collection of daywear, suiting and red carpet eveningwear. The brand's iconic aesthetic has established a leadership position in glamorous daywear and evening dressing and it is available in the finest luxury department and specialty stores worldwide. Visit **www.zacposen.com**

The Next Big Thing... Tech Treats!

1. Bizhop Luggage revolutionises the way business people travel, providing a convenient place to hang your jacket in the airport lounge, keeping your belongings together and ensuring it stays crease-free. It's unique design is the world's first fully upright hard-sided case with unique **#hangerhandle** GQ readers get £25 off by using code 'GQ25' at checkout (expires 31/3/18). Visit **www.bizhop.co.uk**

2. Tap is a revolutionary wearable input device, freeing you from your mouse and keyboard. It turns surfaces into your control center and lets you communicate organically on the go. Wearing Tap on your hand, each tap with your fingers is a character, text, command or a selection. Tap connects with many Bluetooth devices such as your phone, tablet, laptop, smart watch and even VR and AR headsets. Visit **www.tapwithus.com**

3. Imagine enjoying the sky full of stars while sitting on your sofa? This dream can become reality with the Homestar Original from **Sega Toys**. The high definition planetarium with the ultra-bright 3 watt LED and rotating movement projects the night sky throughout the year. Fall asleep while gazing at the stars – all for just £99. Visit **www.segatoys.space**

4. Featuring **ALTO** leather accessories – they focus on superior materials, using only Italian genuine leather to bring you practical solutions to everyday problems. With a fresh design for the iPhone X, this matching leather case and strap not only looks good but provides secure protection and handy access to your phone! Revive your sense of touch at **www.viaalto.com**

5. KitSound Voice One is the smart speaker you've been waiting for... with room-filling, stereo sound, a splash-resistant Nano coating, Amazon Alexa built-in, and multi-room technology connecting up to 8 Voice One speakers together wirelessly – the Voice One fills your home with stunning sound and an enviable atmosphere. £129.99. Available now from **Amazon.co.uk** John Lewis, Richer Sounds, **Very.co.uk** and **kitsound.co.uk**

6. Harber London. Discover better ways to carry with the new Nomad series, for life on the go. Designed to be adaptable, comfortable and durable. Handcrafted with premium vegetable tanned leather. Get yours now at **www.harberlondon.com**

In With The New... Out With The Old!

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1. Pullman Editions designs striking original limited-edition posters that capture the enduring appeal of Art Deco. Their posters feature winter sports, glamorous resorts around the world, and historic automobiles. Over 100 designs available at £395 each. Call **020 7730 0547** or view and buy online at **www.pullmaneditions.com**

2. Butterfly Domes. Choose the butterflies for your dome or select from a large range. Visit **www.butterflydomes.co.uk** or call **07951 110147**.

3. Be ready for Christmas and Valentines Day with this 'No Ordinary Love' poster by Danish design brand **Second Floor.** Gift this romantic-themed typography poster to the one you have – or the one you want. Available in five colour schemes. Purchase at **www.secondfloor.dk** For more information, bespoke orders and collaborations, email **info@secondfloor.dk**

4. Arondight was Sir Lancelot's sword. Times have changed and so has Arondight. The new chef knife series from **Edge of Belgravia**, has a stylish angular handle design, is all stainless steel and has a heavy feel. The perfect gift for your loved one this Valentine's Day! Knife set 7pcs, only £129.90 with accompanying knife block at £79.90. GQ readers get an exclusive discount code with 'GQ25' at checkout (expires 28/02/18). Visit **www.edgeofbelgravia.co.uk** to view the full range.

5. With over 200,000 wall pictures to choose from, the **Posterlounge** range covers everything from the classical works of Van Gogh to modern mixed media art, such as the one designed by German artist Joe Mania. Head over to **www.posterlounge.co.uk** to browse the full collection. For any enquiries, call **0800 0869287**.

6. Lillian Sinclair Design Co. creates timeless home decor for those who cultivate eccentricity. All items are handcrafted in British Columbia and shipped worldwide. Dewey Clock (featured) will be exhibited with the geometric bar clock collection at Milan Design Week. Visit **lilliansinclair.com** or email **letters@lilliansinclair.com**

7. Arro Keraamika, led by head designer Liisu Arro creates high-end porcelain tableware, using artwork of three generations of artists in the same family. Produced in Portugal, their pieces are for everyday use, with a bohemian twist. Visit **www.arrokeraamika.com** and use the exclusive to GQ discount code 'GQ2018' for 18% off (expires 08/02/2018).

8. Sir William Bentley Billiards. This stunning "Shadow" cantilever pool table, is an example of the bespoke design and high quality craftsmanship that makes them the choice of interior designers and design conscious clients. A selection of their tables will be exhibited at 'Exclusively Living' Luxury Home Show at London's Olympia in December. Visit **billiards.co.uk** or call **01264 731 210** to find out more about the show and their beautiful tables, matching accessories and lighting, all of which are handmade in England, delivered and installed worldwide.

9. Greta Claire is an abstract contemporary artist whose art has no boundaries. Her art will "wake you up and slap you in the face – this life is for livin', folks". She's bright, she's bold, she loves texture! For more information, visit **gretaclaire.com** or check out her IG: **@gretacat**

10. EQLight is dedicated to innovate timeless design and immaculately crafted pieces. Here is the LED Zazil Ceiling Semi Flush Mount 30W; with six white hexagonal panel lights and one chrome hexagonal at the centre. To see the LED Zazil complete collection visit **EQLight.com** or email **sales@eqlight.com** for more information

11. Jocelyn Claire Burke is an emerging Canadian artist painting memories of places and metaphysical impressions. Through her personal language of contemporary mark-making, a sense of space is created and the sublime experience of landscape emerges from abstraction. New work, commissions and design collaborations available at **www.jocelynburke.com** Connect on Instagram **@jocelyn_claire_burke**

12. McKinley & Paget make long-lasting, clean-burning candles with naturals scents. Using essential oils, coconut wax and distinctive British steel containers, they make the perfect gift – or a treat for yourself. Handmade in London. Call **020 7183 5398** or visit **www.mckinleyandpaget.com**

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Fresh Faced... Trim in the New Year!

1. Altr For Men. Give your skin a refresh with a soothing moisturiser that leaves your skin smelling as good as it feels. A faint whiskey extract helps your skin feel tighter and reduce the appearance of pores, while providing an alluring scent. Perfect for everyday use. £7.99 at **www.altrformen.com** or on Amazon.

2. Inspired by the elegant craftsmanship of the late 19th. Century, **The DandyBear** is an entirely handmade, heat tempered grooming comb. The DandyBear's ultra-fine teeth keeps your facial hair perfectly in line, while also gently exfoliating any underlying dry skin. Available in Gold, Silver, and Ebony for only £89.00 at **www.thedandybear.com** or email **info@thedandybear.com** for more information. Follow their Facebook to keep up to date at **www.facebook.com/thedandybearcomb**

3. This 2-in 1 Full Care, Beard and Hair Shampoo by **Monsieur Barbier** amazingly empowers your beard AND your hair at the same time. Specially designed to naturally enliven beard, moustache and hair. 98% natural, sulfates and parabene free. To find out more, visit **www.monsieurbarbier.com**

4. The **BRADABRAT** brand is specialized in crafting completely natural beard-care products, specially designed to help men grow the best beards possible! The brand also offers a variety of accessories to support the best look of the beard. This product is BRADABRAT Beard Balm "EXALT" at a price of €10.50. Find more about all their products at **www.bradabrat.com/en/** or get more info at **sales@bradabrat.com**

5. Take care of your man parts with **Doctor Erika's** Beard & Skin Oil. This 100% all-natural oil blend helps to soothe itchy skin and beard dandruff as well as contributing towards normal beard growth. Beards are left feeling soft with a subtle looking shine and added manageability. It's made by a woman, so you know it's good. Visit **DoctorErikas.com**

6. Admiral Grooming. Admiral Anti-Ageing Eye Serum deeply hydrates skin around the eye area with moisture. It has a light and non-greasy formula and helps to reduce the appearance of any wrinkles and fine lines around the eye. 50% off for GQ readers when you use the code 'GQSERUM18' at checkout (expires 31/03/2018). Visit **www.admiralgrooming.co.uk** for more information and to see the full range.

7. dandi® patch is the amazing new solution for underarm sweat and the latest fashion must have. The patches stick to the armpit area absorbing all sweat and odour. A healthy alternative to anti-perspirant they are ideal for protecting your clothes from unsightly underarm staining. Available from **www.dandipatch.com** at £8.99 for a pack of 10.

8. This beard and face oil from **UBIQUITY Beards** helps control itchiness, and beard flakes and gives a subtle looking sheen. Utilising high-quality natural ingredients, this oil conditions, softens, and tames beards of all lengths leaving a slight hint of fragrance. Shop at **www.ubiquitybeards.co.uk**

9. Horned Toad Beard Co. Dapper bearded men need exceptional balms and oils to maintain their resplendent look. These products combine high quality ingredients with layered scents that harken back to memories of distinguished West Texas gentlemen. Their range features: Bourbon Pecan, Rawhide, Sunday Morning, and Texas Spice. Visit **www.HornedToadBeardCo.com** Instagram: **HornedToadBeardCo**

10. Otis Skincare is a prestigious skincare brand created in France. Their range consists of three simple, effective, travel-ready products to keep your skin in the best possible condition. CLEAN. SHAVE. HYDRATE with their Daily Face Wash, Protective Shave Cream and Hydrating Daily Moisturiser. Take a look at **www.otisskincare.com**

11. The **Eisenman and Whisky** Single Malt Mist is a powerful micellar water made with single malt distilled whisky, gold water, organic honey and other natural ingredients. It's an invigorating formula that gives the appearance of youthful skin. £29 for 30 ml at **www.eisenmanwhisky.com** or contact **hello@eisenmanwhisky.com** for more information.

12. Made in England, **Hawkins & Brimble** offer a full range of luxury men's beauty and grooming products. This Limited Edition Gift Set includes a Pre-Shave Scrub, Post-Shave Balm, Beard Oil, Shaving Cream, and a Shaving Brush. Visit **www.hawkinsandbrimble.co.uk** for more information and to purchase.

13. Mr Vanguard is a British brand aiming to capture the essence of the modern man in its debut fragrance – Vanguard Eau de Parfum. The fragrance is a unique blend, with its roots in the hot and tropical climates of the Far East and Caribbean. Made in the UK, Vanguard is a tribute to the modern man who aspires to be in a leading position in his field. Get 10% off with code GQ at **www.mrvanguard.com** (expires 08/02/18) Instagram: **@mrvanguard**

14. Poseidon is New Zealand's premium beard care range. Made with all natural ingredients including Argan, Jojoba and Avocado Oils and fortified with Vitamin E. Formulated to keep your skin and facial hair feeling soft and nourished with moisture. With a range of gentle, but masculine scents to choose from, your face will thank you. Take care of your beard and experience the essence of legends at **www.poseidon.co.nz** or contact **god@poseidon.co.nz**

15. A unique formula containing natural active ingredients – presenting the **Frénésies** hair growth prevention cream. It is a natural alternative to removing unwanted hair whilst having a soothing effect on the skin. Rich in menthol, rosemary and chamomile, which help calm the skin and leave a feeling of freshness. Visit **www.frenesies.com**

16. The Nordic success **Nõberu of Sweden** are dedicated to more than just selling quality products – they want to change the market and the way society thinks about men's grooming. The skin series contains face wash, cleansing scrub and face moisturiser. Visit **www.noberu.se**

17. Mr Brooms is a bespoke beard care company based in Somerset, UK providing a range of products to suit your bearded needs. Their Beard Balms and Oils come in 8 different aromas, including an unscented option. All products are homemade and poured with care by Mr Broom himself, using 100% natural carrier oils, butters and waxes. Get 15% off with code 'GQ15' at **www.mrbrooms.co.uk** (expires (08/02/2018).

18. Sober Berlin. A man's skin is different. This is why Sober, a premium men's grooming brand based in Berlin, developed natural "Clean Care" products for men without any potentially harmful substances. The Hydra Defence Cream (48€) hydrates and protects your skin's appearance daily with the D5 Cell Complex®. More Information and Ordering at **www.soberberlin.com**

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19. Orderly Gentlemen Premium Beard Balm restores order to beards. Hand crafted with organic ingredients, designed to thicken the appearance of beards. Eliminates itchiness, conditions, and keeps beards smelling remarkably enticing. $12.95. To purchase, visit **www.orderlygentlemen.com**

20. White Glo Diamond Series Whitening System. Their strongest system yet, formulated by dentists to ensure fast and effective results. Diamond Series Whitening System five minute application works to lift stains and remove yellowing on the surface of teeth enamel safely and without abrasion. Also comes with bonus White Glo Professional Choice Toothpaste for daily maintenance and anti-cavity protection. With such an easy way to whiten your teeth, there is no excuse not to get the Glo! More info at **www.whiteglo.com**

21. With **Seven Potions** you get nothing less than men's grooming excellence. Natural and organic beard and hair products developed with quality and performance in mind. Choose your grooming essentials among oils, balms, waxes, shampoos and hair styling. View full range at **www.sevenpotions.com**

22. EastWing Grooming Co's premium beard oils and balms bring a professional look and feel to beard care. Their Herbalist and Aromatherapist have used over 35 years' experience to design and hand-blend products that release supremely elegant aromas. Visit **www.eastwinggroomingco.co.uk**

23. MR. Grooming Den creates the ultimate luxury grooming experience. Using only the finest ingredients, they cater to premium men, who want and expect the best from life and from their skin. Pure. Premium. Classic. Luxury. Visit, **www.mrgroomingden.com**

24. Native Man. This Australian certified organic shave and skincare line features only two multi-functional products to cover all your grooming needs. Created by two pharmacists, the range is all about simple, yet potent products, that deliver smooth feeling skin, and are kind to the wallet. Tailored to suit all skin types, wizard beards and all. Visit **www.nativemanskincare.com** to find out more.

25. Bearded Lads was created as a movement for all gentlemen who care about their appearance. Those who like to maintain their mane on a daily basis in a healthy yet stylish manner. Their Beard Oil is natural and made with high grade oils such as Marula Oil, Argan Oil, Jojoba, and essential oils. Priced at $18.99 USD. Visit **www.beardedlads.com** or email **info@beardedlads.com** for more information

26. Start the new year fresh faced and in style with the **Dorco Classic** razor. Delivering a comfortable and close shave due to an incredible 7 precision-aligned blades. With an ergonomic handle in a vintage design, this is Dorco's most technologically advanced razor after over 60 years' of expertise in shaving technology. Enjoy a 10% discount on all products by entering 'GQDO18' at **www.razorsbydorco.co.uk** (expires 31/01/18).

27. K.C. Beard Balms collection of products are designed to complement your everyday Life.Style. Known for their Balms. These products are All Natural, Handcrafted and Individually Batched. Customizable for your preference. Visit **www.BelieveInYourBeard.com** to shop their full line and follow **@KCbeardbalms**

28. Since 1854, **Taylor of Old Bond Street** have produced and sold the finest in Luxury Men's Grooming Products and accessories, creating a brand which is synonymous with British style and quality. Visit their store at 74 Jermyn Street, St James's, London, SW1Y 6NP, call **020 7930 5544** or visit them at **www.tayloroldbondst.co.uk**

29. Vitabiotics. Whether you're a working dad or a fitness enthusiast, Wellman Energy is perfect for those leading hectic lives. The great tasting refreshing drink includes vitamins B6 and B12, magnesium and iron which contribute to normal energy release and help to reduce tiredness and fatigue. With specialist nutrients including Siberian Ginseng extract and Co-Q10, the easy to carry effervescent tablets also include vitamin C and zinc which contribute to normal immune system function. Visit **www.vitabiotics.com**

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Boasting the happiest New Year's Eve view in town, apartments at this predictably popular development range from £2.145 million to £7.65 million.
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What makes a good party? For most of us, it's the people – although a home that is both imposing and inherently welcoming, with generous reception rooms and space for friends and family to stay, certainly helps.

First up is 'Millicent' near Petworth, West Sussex, which may be Georgian in style but is unashamedly hip in entertaining attributes; these include a party room with a dance floor and bar, a billiards room, a two-lane, 10-pin bowling alley and a rather magical 'Indian sitting room', where 400-year-old ornate Haveli stone is teamed with a twinkly LED ceiling display. Three formal reception rooms, seven bedroom suites, staff quarters and 40 acres of parkland command a £19.5 million guide price through Savills.

If your entertaining tastes are more traditional, Savills and Knight Frank can recommend an Arts & Crafts-style Surrey mansion in Thursley, Surrey. Featuring elegant drawing, dining and morning rooms and a huge (72' x 32') library/entertainment room, this £4.35 million gem is used to hosting star-studded gatherings: Roger Taylor of Queen lived here between 1979 and 2003.

For those who would party in the footsteps of Hugh Grant, Carter Jonas is selling his former penthouse in South Kensington, featuring lavish interiors and a wrap-around terrace with an outdoor Jacuzzi and kitchen area; £10 million could see you entertaining alfresco throughout the festive season. Alternatively, for £13.5 million you could take the plunge and hit the dance floor at a state-of-the-art five-bedroom house in Kensington; available through Hamptons, it sports a large swimming pool that closes over to provide a feature dance floor. On a still grander scale, Knight Frank is selling a brand new Regency-style 'seat' in St George's Hill, Weybridge, interior-designed

COWDEN, EDENBRIDGE, KENT
'Deck the halls' and dance till dawn at your very own Tudor manor house. Featuring a party oast house and this vaulted timber frame barn, Grade II*-listed Waystrode Manor combines heaps of period features, a large wine cellar, a swimming pool and a tennis court with uninterrupted views. Yours for £3.6 million.
Savills: 01732 789700

ST LUKE'S STREET, CHELSEA, SW3
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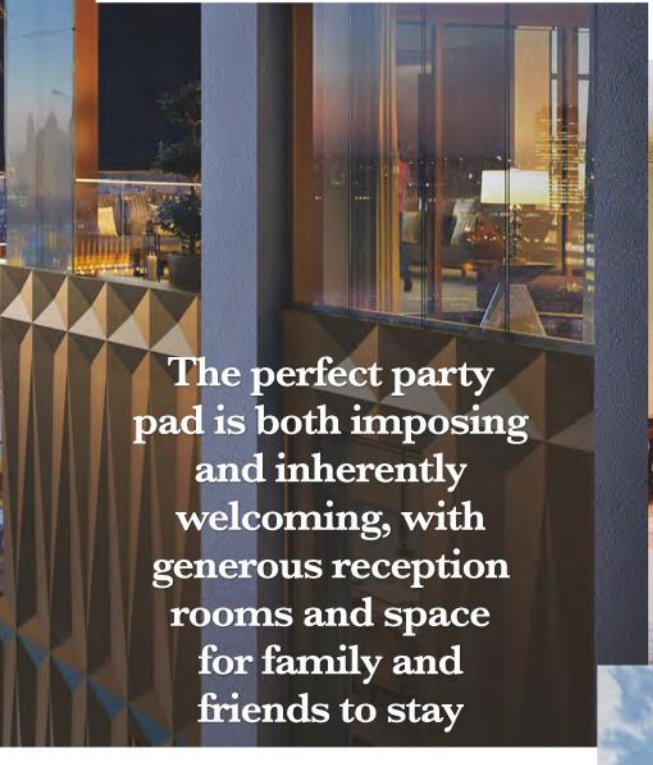
Russell Simpson: 020 7225 0277



The perfect party pad is both imposing and inherently welcoming, with generous reception rooms and space for family and friends to stay

THE BOLTONS, CHELSEA, SW10
Impress your guests at this loveliest of London homes. Four wide reception rooms open on to a large west-facing garden, with a games room, cinema and gym below. There are seven bedroom suites for visitors and a massive master for the hostess with the mostest: £49.5 million, to be precise.
Aylesford: 020 7351 2383

THAKEHAM, PULBOROUGH, WEST SUSSEX
This magnificent Grade I-listed Lutyens masterpiece, which the British architect deemed 'best of the bunch', has six reception rooms, nine bedrooms and 14 acres of Grade II* Jekyll-inspired grounds. £5.5 million could see you entertaining 'at home' in style. Just forget the fake snowflakes and flashing reindeer... *Savills: 020 7016 3780*

by Linley. The £25 million price tag includes all contents from a marble poolside bar to Linley's 'Riviera' desk with signature secret drawers – handy for hiding glittery gifts.

If that's beyond your budget, Wilson Hill is marketing a £2.2 million Grade II-listed Georgian farmhouse with heaps of room for friends to party and family to visit, at Froxfield, near Petersfield in Hampshire. Thoughtfully extended to provide accommodation that can expand or contract according to generational needs, it has seven bedrooms, six reception rooms, extensive cellars, a two-bedroom annex and a fabulous party barn.

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Private Property

Ten years since its birth in London, Savills Private Office now spans the globe. For anyone looking to buy or sell the world's ultimate property, the Private Office also offers something even harder to find – absolute discretion. *Sandy Mitchell investigates*

From left to right: David Forbes, Barbara Allen, Rory McMullen, Julien Ward, Alex Christian, Ned Baring and Crispin Holborow

In the crowded world of property advisors there is nothing else quite like it. A network of the most experienced operators, dedicated to working under the radar and with contacts at the highest level across the globe, it calls itself the Private Office. If James Bond ever considers a safer career in estate agency, he will feel right at home.

It was back in 2007 that David Forbes, an old Etonian ex-British Army officer with a sense of fun to match his great height, sold his blue-chip firm of estate agents in Knightsbridge to Savills, leaving behind an office with two dozen or so staff to join the global property giant at its central London HQ.

As a new boy, he faced an immediate challenge: finding exactly the right expert to speak to among the company's 30,000 global staff. And he realised, in doing so, how he could service an ultra-high-net-worth client wanting immediate help buying an island in the Seychelles or a polo estate in Argentina. So he set up Savills Private Office with the goal of guiding clients at lightning speed to precisely the right person in the firm.

David also knew from three decades spent answering the property needs of the wealthy, indeed the very wealthiest from around the world, that they tend to be shy as gazelles, and for good reason: property prices tend to rocket as soon as a famous name is rumoured to be in the market.

So a code of what David calls 'ultimate discretion', coupled with his gilt-edged contacts book, became the formula for success. And success it is. The Private Office now generates a couple of billion pounds' worth of business opportunities each year for Savills.

But what began a decade ago with one man, an assistant and an idea has now grown to include prominent figures in many of Savills main areas of residential business: Jacqueline Wong in Singapore, Alex Shatalov in Moscow and Jean-Claude Caputo in the French Riviera, along with the head of the English country estates team, Crispin Holborow. Julien Ward works closely alongside David, and comes from the banking world, having worked as a private banker at Credit Suisse for seven years. Alex Christian and Barbara Allen specialise in Prime Central London, while Hugo Thistlethwayte heads up International Residential. Completing the Office is Ned Baring, a globe-trotting specialist in London's finest new-build property, and a three-strong team focused on serving high-profile media, sports and entertainment figures. Recently the Office has expanded into commercial property, too.

All this leaves David a busy man. A sample from a recent week in his diary found him in Hong Kong for three days fitting in 25 meetings back to back, followed by a similar hyper-kinetic burst in Singapore, topped off by an all-day and all-nighter with clients at the Formula One Grand Prix. 'The business is not an overnight success. You have to work at it,' he says.

Asking David directly about his clients is rather

PHOTOGRAPHY: ALUN CALLENDER

like asking the Queen to reveal which Prime Minister was her favourite – the most shocking faux pas. He looks momentarily alarmed at the question. 'My Army background taught me not to talk about anything unless you really need to,' he replies with a disarming grin.

But he is able to share two stories, as they have appeared in the press since the Private Office successfully did its stealthy work. One client wanted to sell a magnificent house and grounds in north London for close to £100 million but made clear that, if any word of the sale leaked before completion, he would kill the deal. To make the job harder, the client would only allow the Private Office to show the house to a single potential buyer, and for just a single viewing. 'We had one shot,' recalls David. It was a bullseye. The Private Office sold the house to a Russian for close to its asking price.

Meanwhile, across the Pond, a recent client wanted to sell the ultimate house on the Bay in San Francisco, without publicity. The team achieved a record price.

It is not only the most expensive properties that the team helps with, however. 'There is no lower price point,' emphasises David, who has happily handled enquiries about student digs before now. For its very special clients, the Office will do almost anything. Best remember that, 007, when filling out your job application.

For more information, visit www.savills.com/privateoffice, or contact David Forbes on 020 7824 9001 or dforbes@savills.com

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The Property Ombudsman

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Argentum Property provides a personal, tailored approach to the high-end property market in London and the Southern Iberian hotspots of Lisbon and Marbella

The launch of the boutique Mayfair-based property service Argentum Property, the joint enterprise of Sophie Panizzo and Luis Diez de Oñate, happened organically. Sophie had been working in London's prime central market for 15 years, predominantly at Sotheby's, whose Chelsea office she set up. Luis, from Sotogrande in Spain, is a solicitor who had been working for 15 years at a boutique London firm. Having been introducing clients to each other, they joined forces to set up Argentum in 2016.

Argentum specialises in the acquisition and sale of high-end properties in central London and southern Spain and Portugal. Its signature is its personal, tailored approach: clients buying or selling a property work directly with Sophie and Luis to find the perfect match in terms of their needs and ambitions.

Currently in Argentum's portfolio are villas on the stunning grounds of Finca Cortesin, an award-winning hotel, golf resort and spa ideally situated on the coast between Sotogrande and Marbella. The impressive villas are set in the golf course, offering plenty of privacy and space, but with all the amenities of the hotel at their doorstep. Finca Cortesin boasts a world-class spa and gym, four swimming pools, an 18-hole world-championship-hosting golf course, padel and tennis courts, plus five restaurants, including Michelin-starred Kabuki Raw, and a Beach Club. The vision of seven renowned architects, the elegant residences are designed in three architectural styles – Classical Spanish, Colonial and Modern Contemporary – with prices starting at €4 million.

FINCA CORTESIN

Also on Argentum's roster are exclusive properties by Stone Capital in Lisbon and nearby Comporta, Portugal's coastal hotspot known as 'the future Hamptons of Europe'. Still a well-kept secret, Comporta offers bare-foot luxury in the region's preserved, breathtaking landscape. The Comporta Retreat estate includes 28 plots of land, ranging from 2,000 to 5,500 square metres.

FINCA CORTESIN

Coming from a corporate background, brothers Arthur and Geoffroy set up Stone Capital in 2002 when they moved to Lisbon and fell in love with the city. They have since become one of the most successful high-end developers in the area, carefully picking premium buildings in Lisbon's best locations.

In the city's vibrant and historic Alfama neighbourhood, Stone Capital has embarked on the gentle refurbishment of iconic Santa Helena which dates back to the 1500s and was formerly the residence of aristocrats. Featuring 20 apartments with one to five bedrooms, the project preserves the characterful history and original features of the building while moving it into the twenty-first century with all the needs of contemporary living. Prices range from €780,000 to €1.5 million and purchasers may be eligible for Portugal's hugely successful golden visa and Non-Habitual Resident tax programme. *For more information on the properties, email sp@argentumproperty.co.uk or call 020 7629 0439 | 33 Bruton Street, W1*

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A two-bedroom flat in Knightsbridge for sale exclusively through Argentum for £2.85 million

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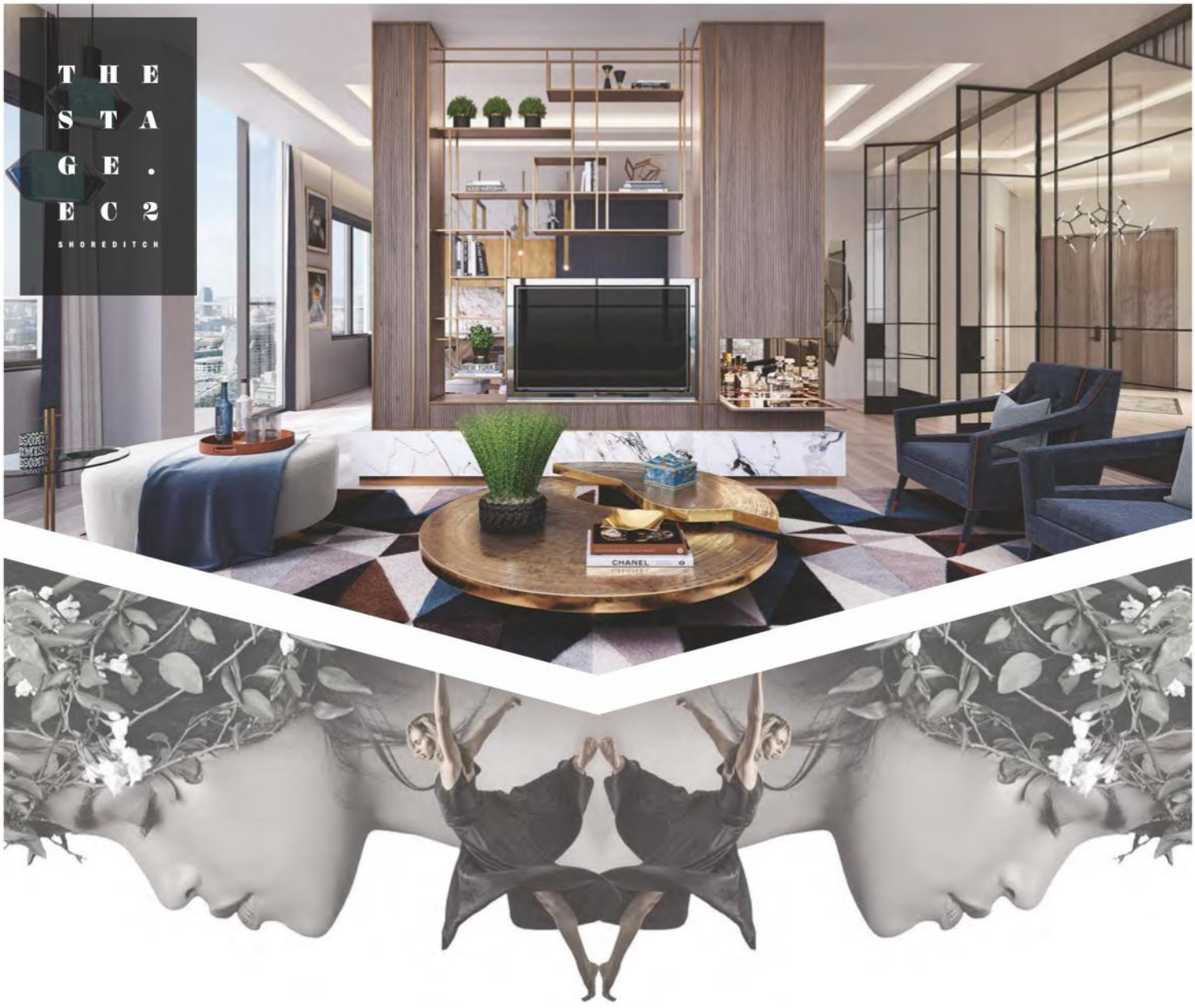

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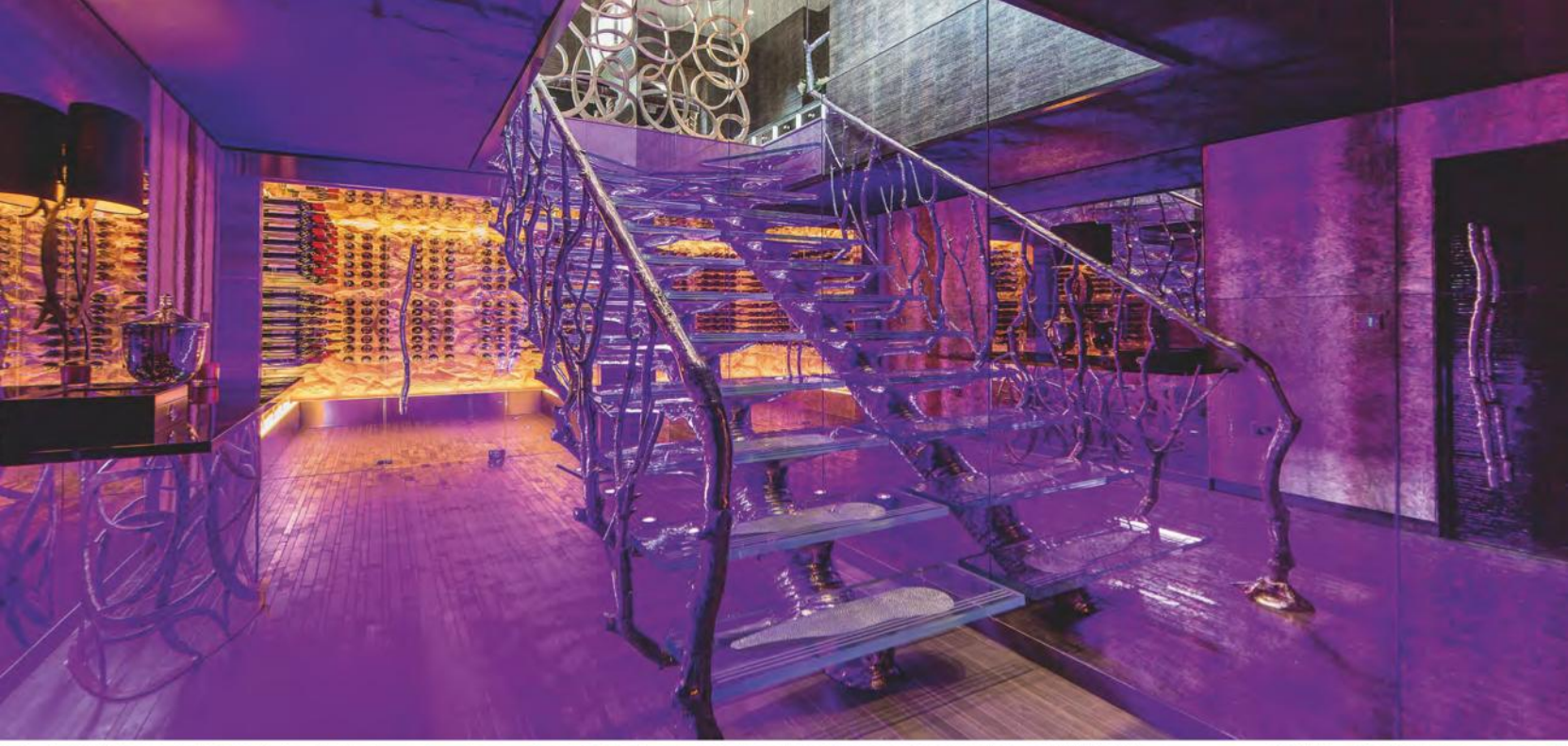

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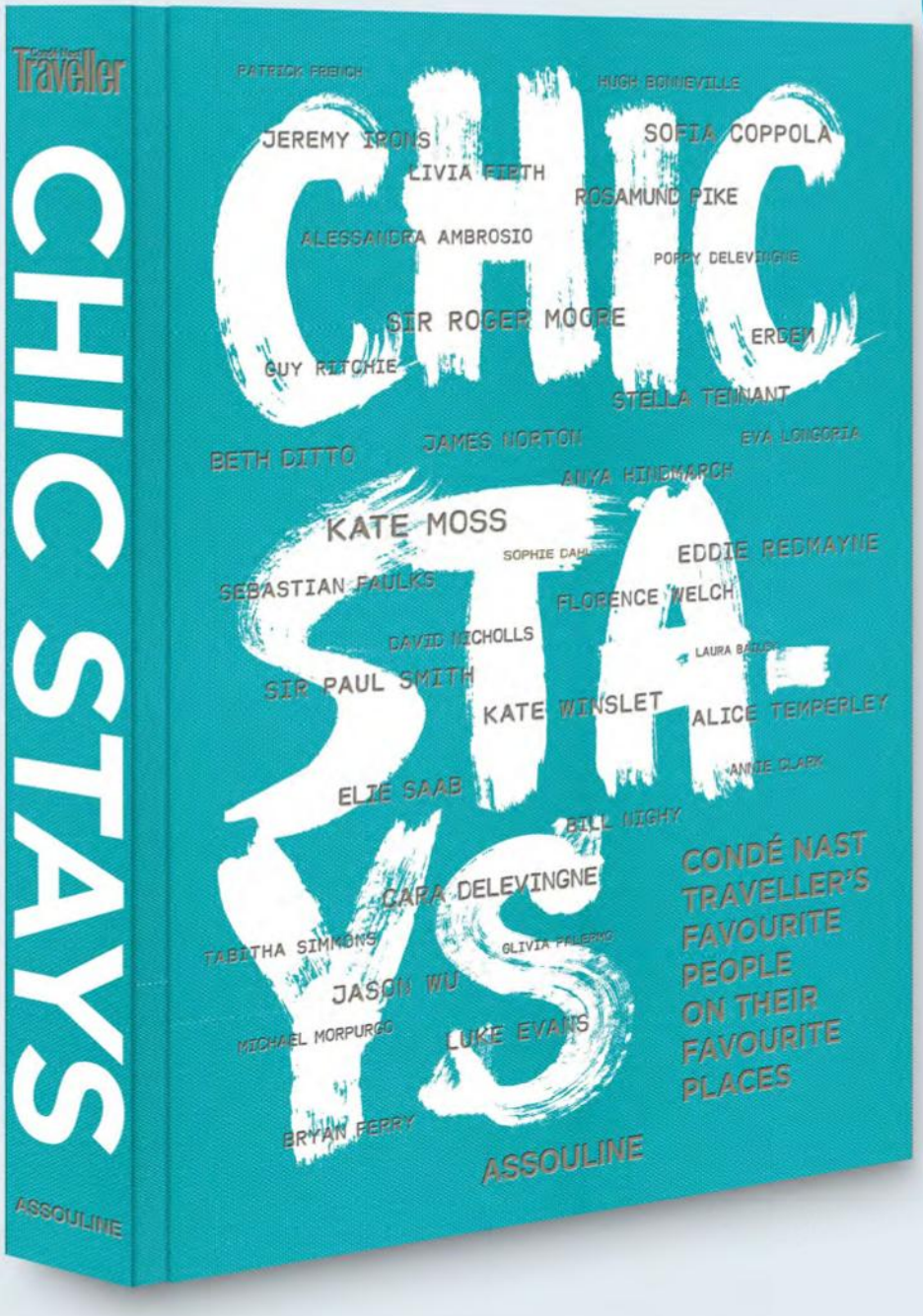

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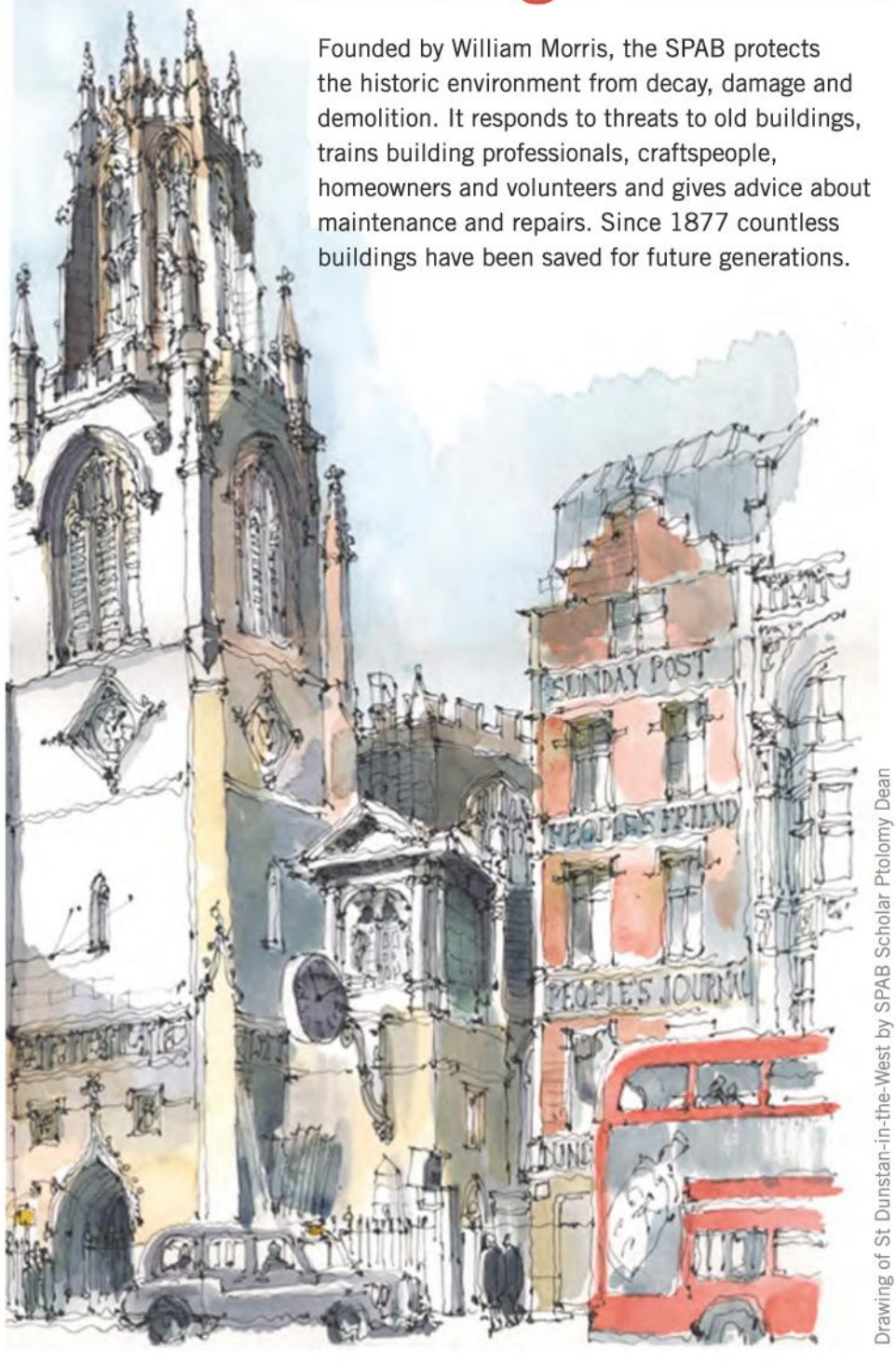

Drawing of St Dunstan-in-the-West by SPAB Scholar Ptolomy Dean

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From whisky to warfare, LCD Soundsystem's big noise goes over the edge at **Rochelle Canteen**

Is there such a thing as being cool anymore?

In fashion, the closest you're going to get nowadays is Georgian designer Demna Gvasalia, a one-man hipster culturequake whose fugly merch for Vetements and Balenciaga has become the must-have uniform for jet-setting super cliques travelling business class with carry-ons full of ice-cold irony.

More likely, however, "cool" is about pink pussyhats. A modern-day icon of coolness in a world where cool really means "woke" (a good thing) rather than, say, vacuous, camp and elite.

What about the music industry? Can musicians be cool anymore? An artist such as St Vincent seems pretty cool: uniquely talented, savvy and eloquent about modern issues that matter to modern people. As for solid-gold talent, don't get me started on Kendrick Lamar. Still, what do I know? I'm 38, which in "influencer" years is about 108 and, as everyone knows, being old isn't cool. Well, unless it's "vintage".

James Murphy, lead singer, songwriter and grizzled talisman of New York-based electronic outfit LCD Soundsystem, used to be cool once upon a time. Didn't he? I remember when American bands such as Yeah Yeah Yeahs first started playing in Britain around the early noughties, Murphy's ramshackle, hyper-aggressive, almost-always-wasted noise squad were name-dropped by the skinny-jean-wearing kids who took their record shopping more seriously than their girlfriends.

Vinyl heads that liked LCD Soundsystem thought bands such as The Strokes were pop wimps. James Murphy was punk rock. He was authentic. He was, in the words of Richie Edward's slashed-up forearm, "4 Real". And for someone like me, who liked The Strokes, Murphy was seriously intimidating.

"Were we a cool band?" Sitting down for a breezy Monday lunch, Murphy mulls this over like a man who's thought about the pecking order of cool bands – and his place within it – before. "We didn't set out to be cool. We set out to be an extremely tight band. We wanted to defy expectations. The more negative your mindset on coming to one of our gigs, the better for us, frankly."

Although LCD "retired" six years ago – the final show was a "swan dive" at Madison Square Garden – this year saw the release of *American Dream*, which might be their best album yet. "Back then we wanted to blow the other bands on the bill off the stage. We wanted to kill everybody. We were not cool to people. We did not want to go for drinks afterwards. We were outsiders. For us, it was total warfare. Warfare, plus lots of whisky."

'For us it was total warfare. Warfare, plus lots of whisky'

Such an antagonistic stance towards the competition should come as no surprise. Murphy even wrote a song about it, "Losing My Edge", an anthem that some dismissed as a smart-arsed takedown of the Napster generation when really it was a rage-fuelled admission of status anxiety. It was also ludicrously catchy.

We're eating at Rochelle Canteen, a restaurant co-owned by Melanie Arnold and Margot Henderson. Henderson is the brilliant wife of Fergus, the man behind the nose-to-tail menu at St John. She founded Canteen years ago after leaving the French House, where she ran the hobs. It started out life as a cafeteria for local artists, while also serving as a base for their catering company, Arnold & Henderson. A restaurant proper blossomed out of Henderson's natural ability; its staying power testament to her skills and ambition.

We order: Murphy demands that we share the courgette flowers with honey, while I alone will try the ham hock. ("If I eat but a spoonful of that my toe will explode.") For mains, Murphy picks the chicken pie ("Sounds big. Maybe I'll only eat half") and I choose the mussels with saffron. The food is aromatic and unpretentious. The bowl of steaming mussels is the best I have had this side of the Menai Strait.

Shall we have a glass of something? "I am having a day off today." So, white or red? "No, I mean a day off from drinking. Work usually involves some form of alcohol so I am going to skip it. I used to get really fucked up. Touring will kill you. I still get significant stage fright, although I don't need to drink a bottle of whisky before every show nowadays."

Does Murphy still hold a torch for unbridled hedonism? "I don't drink beer and I don't drink at home. We all make sure we eat really well while away. We had duck rillettes on sourdough toast backstage in Paris. An Aperol spritz is about my most dangerous speed. Life has changed. So has what I put into my body."

Duck rillettes? Aperol spritz? Has post-punk rocker James Murphy's post-punk rocker gone all bourgeoisie? Have LCD Soundsystem *sold out*? "If you mean has this become simply a job for me, then no. If being in a band was my job then I would quit. This is not a good job. A good job is in financial management.

"The wine, the food, these are old interests. Restaurants remind me of bands: there's lots of camaraderie, people work very closely together, very hard, and it's a bad job to pick if you want to make lots of money. Whether music or food, the reward always has to be because you love it." Love, creativity and a glass of Bonterra organic merlot? Sounds pretty cool to me. **GQ**

Rochelle Canteen, Arnold Circus, Shoreditch, London E2. 020 7729 5677. rochelleschool.org/rochellecanteen

VERDICT Beard ★★★★☆ Intimidation ★★★☆☆ Knowledge ★★★★★ Geniality ★★★★★ Ability to relocate 'edge' ★★★★☆ **Overall** ★★★★☆

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